DAZZLE™

MINARI ENDOH

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TOKYOPOP®

執事の王子

遠藤海成

MINARI ENDOH

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DAZZLE™

Vol. 4

Minari Endoh

TOKYOPOP®

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Story So Far...

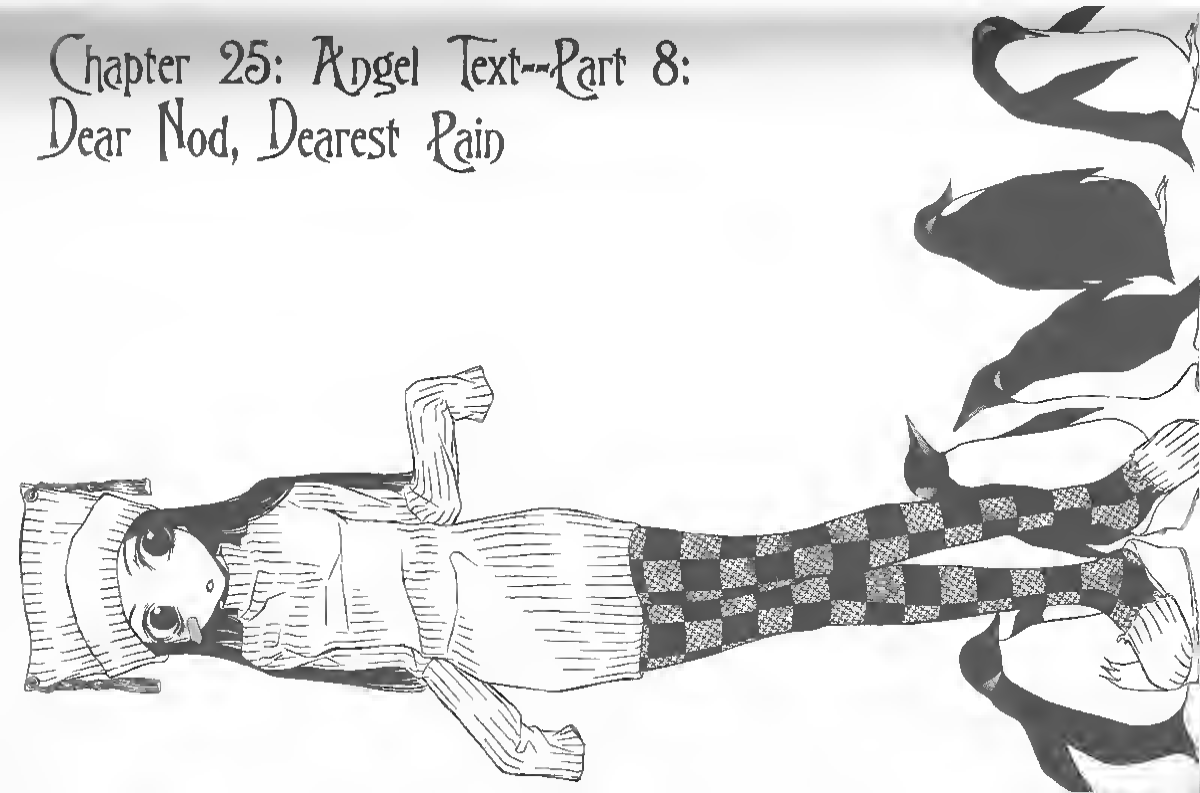
A young girl named Rahzel with magical abilities is abruptly sent off to see the world by her father. At first she is alone on her journey, until she meets Alzeid, a mysterious lone traveler who has abilities similar to hers. He's on a mission to find his father's killer... and even though they initially don't get along, the two become travel partners, helping the downtrodden and fighting wrongs (for a high amount of cash, of course).

Also joining them on their journey is a friend of Alzeid's named Baroquehead. Rahzel is at first suspicious of Alzeid's old friend (and with good reason)...but slowly she is beginning to accept him as "one of the gang."

And not a moment too soon, for Rahzel and Alzeid will need all the allies they can get! Arriving at a town where they meet Dee Feppel, a representative of the religious order Synchronic Victory, Rahzel dislikes him from the moment she meets him, mainly because he is very cruel toward the "sinners" in the town.

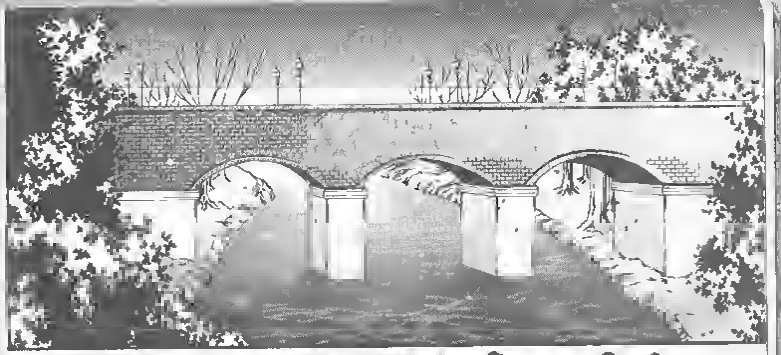
Much to Rahzel's chagrin, Dee takes an immediate interest in her, and subsequently drugs and kidnaps her. However, she somehow manages to escape, and Alzeid, Baroquehead and Jelice watch over her while she recuperates. But while Rahzel is resting, Baroquehead's older [illegible] had been injected with a mysterious drug. And even though Rahzel wakes up seemingly fine, she has indeed lost many of her memories because of the drug. Adding fuel to the fire, Dee appears to take her away--except this time Rahzel is ready to fight back!

Chapter 25: Angel Text--Part 8: Dear Nod, Dearest Pain



GOTCHA.

!!

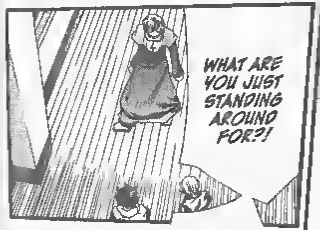


HEY, SHOULD WE STOP NOW? I'M GETTING BORED.
YOU WERE TALKING BIG EARLIER, BUT NOW YOU'RE NOT EVEN FIGHTING BACK.
You're no fun
Hey!
WHY DON'T YOU CALL IT A NIGHT?

ギュオオオオオ
MY, MY...
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT POWER'S ENOUGH TO TOUCH ME?

ドドドドド

Haa!
WHILE I DISTRACT DEE, YOU GET EVERYONE OUT OF THE ABBEY.
LISTEN, JELICE!


WHAT ARE YOU JUST STANDING AROUND FOR?!

BUT RAHZEL... YOU'RE THE ONE HE'S AFTER!
WHICH MEANS HE DOESN'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ANYONE ELSE

HURRY--?!

YOU GUYS...

EMERGENCY, EMERGENCY! EVERYBODY WAKE UP!
HE'LL SACRIFICE OR USE OTHER PEOPLE WITH NO REMORSE.
SO BEFORE THAT CAN HAPPEN...

UGH...
NOW...
...ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU BUZZ OFF?

IT REBUILDS THE HUMAN BODY FROM THE CELLULAR LEVEL...
...CAUSING A HUMAN BEING TO BE BORN AGAIN AS SOMETHING INHUMAN.
THAT SAME DRUG I SHOT THE GIRL UP WITH...
...DEE SPREAD IT ALL OVER THIS TOWN.
THAT ANGEL TEXT DRUG?
THAT DRUG WASN'T ORIGINALLY INTENDED FOR RECREATION
IT'S FOR EVOLUTION.
THUS...
..."ANGEL TEXT."

I SEE. LOOKS LIKE THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN'T HANDLE, EVEN THOUGH YOU JUST GOT LIVE INJECTED DRUGGED.
WHAT IMPRESSIVE POWER!!
IS IT SOMETHING YOU'VE HAD SINCE BIRTH?
OR...?
SO, YOU'RE A MAGIC USER.
OH MAN. THAT ONE SHOT WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE YOU OUT.
I GUESS YOU'RE TOO STRONG FOR ME.
MAGIC? IT'S MORE LIKE ANGELIC POWER.
DEE TOLD ME I'M ONE OF THE CHOSEN ONES.

Boom
?!
DAMN YOU!!
YOU SHOULDN'T LET YOURSELF GET MAD SO EASILY
AFTER ALL, YOU HAVE A VERY BEAUTIFUL SMILE.
OH NO!
DAMMIT!!
IF THE DRUG IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH SOMEONE, OR IF THEY TAKE MORE THAN THE RECOMMENCED DOSAGE...
...THERE WILL BE AN ANOMALOUS AMOUNT OF BLOOD PRODUCTION, THE PRESSURE OF WHICH THE BODY WILL BE UNABLE TO BEAR, CAUSING IT TO EXPLODE.
DIDN'T YOU SEE THE RESULTS OF THE FAILED TEST CASE?
IS THIS SOME SICK HOBBY OF YOURS?
ALTHOUGH ANGEL TEXT IS SUCH A WONDERFUL DRUG, NOT EVERYONE WILL ACHIEVE A GOOD RESULT FROM IT.
UN-FORTUNATELY...
...THAT'S VERY POSSIBLE.
WAIT A MINUTE.
ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT THE WAY MISETTE DIED...
...WAS BECAUSE OF THAT DRUG?

TAKE A FEW DEEP BREATHS. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER.
He won't feel better quite that easily.
Cough!
Cough!
Cough!
Cough!
Cough!
HEY, HEY! HOW COME YOU GUYS ARE SO RELAXED?!
Poom
CALM DOWN.
Cough!

DON'T FORGET WHAT I'M HERE TO DO TO YOU!!

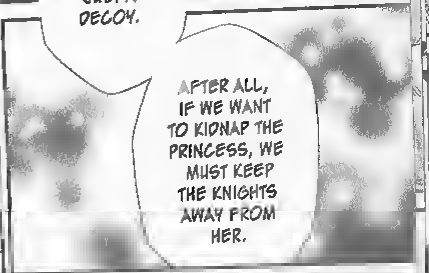
HUH?

slice

THEN YOUR PLAN HAS FAILED.
ALZEID MUST BE WITH HER RIGHT NOW--

WHAT THE--?!
THAT NOISE CAME FROM OVER BY THE ABBEY.
OH MY GOD...!!
DARN. NOW YOU KNOW I'M JUST A DECOY.

NOOOO!
DID I HEAR MY NAME?


AFTER ALL, IF WE WANT TO KIDNAP THE PRINCESS, WE MUST KEEP THE KNIGHTS AWAY FROM HER.

I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT YOU, SO I FOLLOWED YOU.
It's that simple.
YOU'RE ALSO PRETTY WELL DRESSED FOR THE COLD!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
RAHZEL! MY RAHZEL!!
I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND MY ACTION AS THE FOLLY OF YOUTH.
HOW YOU DARE TO HOPE I'LL EVER FORGIVE YOU?! IDIOT!!

GHAAAA!!
WE'RE BUSY WORRYING ABOUT A WOMAN.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE FIGHTING YOU.
SAVE YOUR BREATH.
LOOK! MY HANDS! MY HANDS ARE GONE!
I NOTICED. SORRY. IT MUST HURT A LOT.
THERE'S BLOOD SPRAYING OUT!!
MY HAAANDS!!

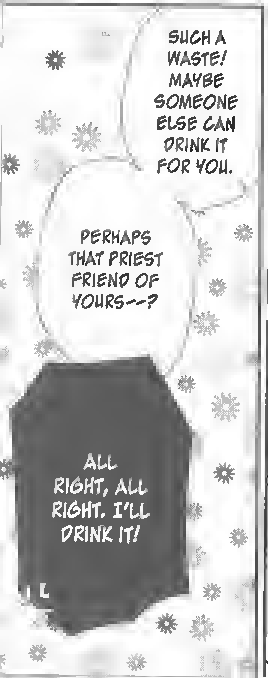
SHUT THE HELL UP!

SFF
I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT.
I'LL HAVE SOMEONE BRING NEW CLOTHES FOR YOU.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN. I'M PERFECTLY FINE.
EXCEPT NOW MY NICE CLOTHES ARE ALL RUINED.
I'LL ORDER A WHITE DRESS THAT'LL GO GREAT WITH THAT BLACK HAIR OF YOURS.

HE'S TOUGHER THAN YOU'D EXPECT.
WHAT SURVIVAL POWER! I'D SAY IT'S DEFINITELY ANGELIC.
HEY, YOU GUYS! LISTEN! PLEASE HELP ME!
H-HELP ME!
I'M GONNA DIE! SERIOUSLY!!
Cough!
SEE YOU LATER, IF THE FATES ALLOW.
YEP!

THANK YOU SO MUCH. THOUGH IT'S KIND OF CREEPY THAT IT FITS ME SO WELL.
I HAD IT MADE ESPECIALLY FOR YOU.
YOU LOOK QUITE BEAUTIFUL IN THAT DRESS.
When did he get my measurements?

CHECKMATE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
MAY I TAKE YOUR HAND, MILADY?


SUCH A WASTE! MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE CAN DRINK IT FOR YOU.
PERHAPS THAT PRIEST FRIEND OF YOURS--?
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. I'LL DRINK IT!

A TOAST TO THIS DAY...
...AND TO THE OPPORTUNITY I'VE HAD TO MEET YOU.
I'M GLAD THAT YOU LIKE IT.

I'VE ALSO BEEN WARNED NOT TO ACCEPT ANY-THING FROM STRANGERS.
SO SORRY. I'M STILL TOO YOUNG TO DRINK.
I'm sure you peis need it anyway

I'LL ESCORT YOU THE REST OF THE WAY.

What?
DID YOU SERIOUSLY JUST SAY THAT?
I'M NOT SAYING THAT'S NOT PROBLEMATIC.
AFTER ALL, THE ANGEL IS SUPPOSED TO BE A WOMAN.
AND SHE MUST BE THE BEST OF THE CHOSEN ONES.

YOU WERE?
WOULDN'T YOU SAY THIS DRUG IS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE?
WE WERE SO HAPPY THAT WHAT OUR RELIGION BELIEVED IN COULD BE CREATED BY OUR OWN HANDS.

AS I EXPLAINED TO YOU EARLIER...
...ANGEL TEXT IS A DRUG FOR EVOLVING INTO AN ANGEL.
Please don't let there be anything strange in here!

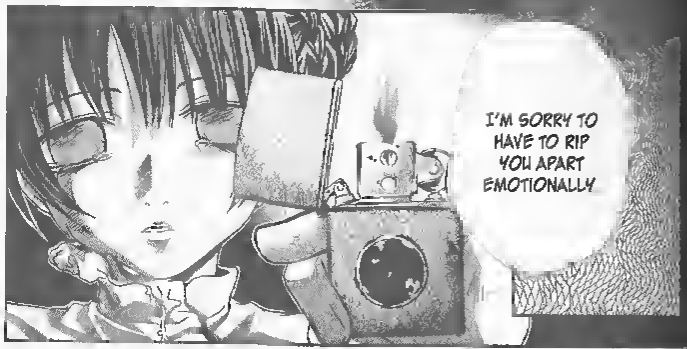
ARE YOU [illegible] ME?!
WHAT YOU SHOULD BE EXCHANGING IS YOUR CRAZY BRAIN!
SO PLEASE... EXCHANGE YOUR BODY WITH MINE.

WHEN THERE'S SOMETHING PEOPLE RESPECT, IT'S BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY ONE OF IT. THAT'S WHY WE'RE ABLE TO VALUE IT.
THOUGH IT SEEMS STRANGE TO BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
WE CAN CREATE SO MANY, WHEN ANGELS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE SO EXCLUSIVE.

NOTHING YOU'VE SAID MAKES ANY SENSE--
FIRST OF ALL, WHO'S THIS ANGEL YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, ANYWAY?

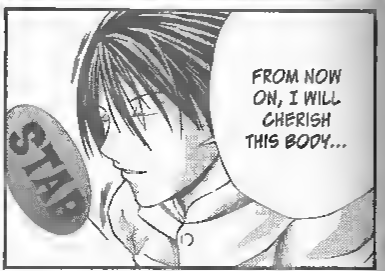
...THAT I SHOULD BE THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS TO BE THE ANGEL?
DON'T YOU THINK, SINCE I HAVE THE POSITION OF UNITING EVERYONE TOGETHER.

WHY WOULD YOU RUN FROM YOUR OWN MOMMY?
EEEK!
I HAD NO CHOICE!
YOU JUST TRIED TO PROTECT YOURSELF, DIDN'T YOU?
I KNOW, I KNOW. IT'S [illegible] THAT YOU HATE ME.
BUT PLEASE UNDERSTAND. THE ONLY REASON I TRIED TO KILL YOU...
...IS BECAUSE IT WOULD BE CRUEL TO LEAVE YOU ALL ALONE AFTER I DIED.
I ONLY EVER HAD YOUR WELFARE IN MIND, SHIA.
ALZEID.. BAROQUEHEAT.. HELP ME...
AND WHO ELSE IS THERE...?
AH HA HA? HOW CAN YOU LAUGH IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS?
DON'T WORRY. IT'S JUST A SLEEP DRUG.
IT'S WORKING FASTER THAT I EXPECTED.
Ah ha ha!
WHO DID I ALWAYS...
...ASK FOR HELP?
"WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?"
"DO YOU THINK THERE'S ANYWHERE YOU CAN RUN?"
"HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! RAHZENSHIA!"


I'M SORRY TO HAVE TO RIP YOU APART EMOTIONALLY

.....
HUH?

CLICK
I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BREAK DOWN EVERYTHING BURIED DEEP IN YOUR SUB-CONSCIOUS.
TWO SOULS ARE TOO MUCH FOR ONE BODY TO HANDLE.


STAP
FROM NOW ON, I WILL CHERISH THIS BODY...

...YOU KILLED ME...
...AND WALKED OVER MY DEAD BODY.
...SIMPLY TO PROTECT YOURSELF...
BUT... WITH NO MALICE AT ALL...

WHAT DO YOU SEE AFTER THAT?
NOOOOOO!!
WHAT DO YOU SEE, RAHZEL?

EXCHANGING BODIES? BECOMING AN ANGEL?
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
YOU'RE HOPELESSLY IDIOTIC.
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME I COULD!
HUH? DID I SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
THEN THAT MAKES IT EVEN MORE PATHETIC.
YOU SHOULDN'T JUST BELIEVE WHAT OTHERS TELL YOU, WHEN YOU'RE A LIAR YOURSELF.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
YOUR USEFULNESS HAS REACHED AN END.
BYE-BYE, LOUSY ACTOR.

Chapter 26: Angel Text--Part 9: Perfect Anodyne

HUH? THAT'S STRANGE
Cough!
Cough! Hack!
Cough!
THAT WOUND SHOULD HEAL RIGHT AWAY...
...AND YOUR ARM SHOULD REGROW IF IT GETS CUT OFF.
OH WELL. THE EXPERIMENT WAS ONLY IN THE MIDDLE STAGES.
?
SO IT DIDN'T MATTER TO ME WHAT YOU DID WITH THAT DRUG. .
...AS LONG AS IT ALLOWED ME TO COLLECT DATA ON ITS USE.
BUT THIS GIRL IS MINE... I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO MAKE HER YOUR TOY.
A DRUG FOR BECOMING AN ANGEL?
NOTHING LIKE THAT EXISTS.
ANGEL TEXT IS...

FIND HER EVEN IF IT KILLS YOU.
WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS?!
AH HA HA HA HA HA! QUIT COMPLAINING!
OF COURSE!

...THE TEXTBOOK OF REVENGE...
...ON THE STUPID GOD WHO RUINED THE ANGEL.

I WONDER IF IT'S SAFE TO GO IN THERE NOW?
HEY! DON'T GO ANY CLOSER!
WAIT UNTIL THE FIREMEN GET HERE!
HOW MANY MORE PROBLEMS DOES SHE PLAN ON CAUSING US?

STAY BACK! STAY BACK!
IT'S DANGEROUS!

ARE YOU SURE THAT IDIOT IS IN HERE?
I ASSUME SO...
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
HOW WOULD I KNOW?

GOD BLESS, SHITHEAD!
AMEN!!
ON TOP OF THAT, SHE STARTED TAKING DRUGS AND GOT SICK.
SO MUCH SO I COULDN'T RECOGNIZE THE INNOCENT GIRL FROM EIGHT YEARS AGO ..
...AND SHE DIDN'T EVEN REMEMBER ME, EITHER...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT.. ?!
ANYWAY, AREN'T YOU GOING TO SAY ONE LAST PRAYER?
NO?
THEN I'LL SAY ONE FOR YOU!

HOW DID YOU ESCAPE...?!
DO YOU REMEMBER A WOMAN NAMED MISETTE?
Cough! Cough! Cough! Cough!
Huff...
I'M GOING TO BECOME AN ANGEL
I HAVE TO GET HER BODY BACK
OH MY. YOU MUST BE IN AN AWFUL LOT OF PAIN.
WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO END IT FOR YOU, RIGHT NOW?
SHE COULDN'T FIND ANY OTHER WAY TO EAT BUT BY SELLING HER OWN BODY.
SHE WAS ONLY AN INNOCENT GIRL FROM A RICH FAMILY WHO JUST HAD NO SKILLS.
HER FAMILY WENT BANKRUPT, AND THEY ABANDONED HER IN THIS HARSH WORLD.
YOU WANT TO FIGHT ME FOR SOME STUPID WOMAN WHO WAS JUST A NOBODY?
SOME MERCIFUL PRIEST YOU ARE...

YOU'RE THAT GUY FROM EARLIER
WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME LIKE THAT?
DON'T YOU WANT HER ANYMORE?
GOOD, GOOD. HANDLE HER WITH CARE.
...I'M MERELY LENDING HER TO YOU...
JUST REMEMBER...
...JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
SO, SEE YOU SOON.
BYE-BYE!

A GUNSHOT?!
BOOM
?!
NO GOOD.
THE SMOKE'S GETTING THICKER AND THICKER...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HERE.

OH, I FORGOT ABOUT THIS BEAUTIFUL ONE!
I WILL KILL YOU.
Pshaw!
...WATCHING SLEEPING BEAUTY ISN'T A BAD WAY TO SPEND A NIGHT.
THOUGH IT'S TOO BAD WE DON'T HAVE A BEAUTIFUL GIRL SERVING US DRINKS...
LITTLE BOY...
...AL! ♡
SINCE THERE WASN'T ANY CURE FOR IT, SHE WAS JUST WAITING FOR DEATH.
AND SHE STARTED GOING CRAZY.
HER HUSBAND GOT TIRED OF HER AND STARTED SPENDING MOST OF THE TIME AWAY FROM HOME.
I HEARD THAT RAHZEL'S OLD LADY WAS SICK.
You sure you'll drink just me?
WHO SAID I'M NOT GOING TO SLEEP?
SOME COMFORT FOR A SLEEPLESS NIGHT.
WHAT'S THAT?
LET'S DRINK TOGETHER! ♡

I WAS JUST CONCERNED THAT YOU'D PUSH HER BY ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT IT.
AND THEN SHE'D GET MAD AND SAY THAT SHE'D ONLY TELL YOU ON HER OWN TERMS.
BUT I DON'T WANNA MAKE HER HAVE TO TELL A STORY LIKE THAT OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
DON'T INTERRUPT MY STORY!
I KNOW THAT RAHZEL WILL BE TICKED AT YOU FOR REVEALING HER SECRETS TO ME.
THE END.
SO HE ABANDONED HER, ALONE, IN THE MIDDLE OF FOREST.
...PERHAPS HE THOUGHT RAHZEL WOULD BE MORE THAN HE COULD HANDLE.
ANYWAY, AFTER THE BAD HUSBAND FOUND OUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED...
...YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT TOO, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT?
LET'S KICK OFF THE 23RD ANNUAL SYMPATHY COMPETITION!
OF COURSE!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
whisper
whisper
SHOULD I FEEL BAD FOR HER AFTER HEARING A STORY LIKE THAT?

AND RAHZEL'S MOM...
...GOT MORE AND MORE CRAZY AND...
...IN THE END.....
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN...?

OH! YOU'RE UP!
WHERE AM I...?
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS PLACE BEFORE.
SOMETHING SMELLS GOOO
HERE. HAVE A SEAT.
OH... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
UH... RAH-ZENSH--
NO! RAHZEL! MY NAME'S RAHZEL!
WHO'S HE?
I JUST MADE SOME TEA.
WOULD YOU LIKE A CUP?
SEEING HER ANGRY FACE...
...OR HER CRYING FACE...
.....
YOU'RE SO CRUEL.
!!
UMM...

RAHZEL, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME MY CHILD?
BUT I CAN'T EAT THAT MUCH AT ONCE...
THEN YOU CAN EAT LITTLE BY LITTLE EVERY DAY.
AND AT THE DINNER TABLE, LET'S TALK ABOUT ALL KINDS OF STUPID THINGS...
...WHAT WAS FUN, AND WHAT MADE YOU ANGRY.
I'LL GIVE YOU A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN ALWAYS SAY, "I'M HOME."

OH NOOOO!
RAHZEL?
I feel terrible!
IT SOUNDS LIKE A BOY'S NAME. BUT IT'S CUTE!
WHY DID I LIE TO HIM?!
OR WOULD YOU RATHER EAT SOMETHING MORE SUBSTANTIAL?
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
N-NO!!
I'VE ALSO GOT SOME SCONES BAKING.
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?!
BUT I CAN'T TELL HIM I WAS LYING...
WHAT KIND OF JELLY DO YOU LIKE?
AU GRATIN? RISOTTO? WHAT DO YOU LIKE?
I LIKE EVERYTHING.
THEN EVERYTHING IT IS!
WHAT DO YOU FEEL LIKE EATING? SALISBURY STEAK? BEEF STEW? SPAGHETTI?

OH, RAHZEL.
YOU'RE STILL AWAKE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I WAS GOING TO REMAKE YOUR CLOTHES USING SOME OF MY OLD CLOTHES.
"REMAKE"?
UMM... HOW CAN I EXPLAIN IT...?
I USE THE PATTERN OF THE ORIGINAL AND RECREATE IT USING NEW CLOTH ..
DO YOU WANT TO TRY?
THEN, YOU SHOULD LEARN!
I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.
THEY NEVER LET ME TOUCH SCISSORS OR A NEEDLE, BECAUSE THEY'RE SHARP AND DANGEROUS.
HER THREE SIZES...DID I MENTION HER THREE SIZES?
YOU TOLD ME THAT ALREADY!
BUT NOW I KNOW MORE ABOUT HER THAN YOU DO.
YOU SAID YOU KNOW RAHZEL BETTER THAN ME SINCE YOU'VE KNOWN HER LONGER.
YOU DID SPEND A LITTLE MORE TIME WITH HER THAN I HAVE.
I KNOW THE STORY OF HER FIRST LOVE.
HUH?!
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
AREN'T YOU CURIOUS?
I WON'T TELL YOU A THING!
Yeah!
...PLEASE COME BACK WHEN YOU'RE NORMAL.

NO ONE WAS FORCING YOU TO WAIT FOR A SLOW DEATH...
...IN SUCH A LONELY PLACE.
THAT WAS A LITTLE CONFUSING, WASN'T IT?
HEY, IT'S LATE. TRY TO GET SOME SLEEP.
I BELONG...
...TO ME?
...YOU TOO WILL ABANDON ME SOME-DAY?
DOES THAT MEAN...
I WILL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW IN ORDER TO SURVIVE BY YOURSELF.
I'M NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT HOW TO SEW.
YOU SHOULD LEARN HOW TO COOK, HOW TO FIGHT, AND HOW TO SURVIVE ON YOUR OWN.
...THAT YOU HAVE NO OTHER MASTER BESIDES YOURSELF.
YOU SHOULD UNDER-STAND...
AND YOU'RE NOT OWNED BY YOUR PARENTS, EITHER.
BECAUSE I DON'T OWN YOU.
DON'T MISUNDER-STAND.
THERE IS NO ABANDONING, OR BEING ABANDONED.
GOOO!
F-FA... THER?
CALL ME DADDY OR FATHER!

HUH?
DID I LEAVE A LIGHT ON?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
..BECAUSE..
I'VE NEVER...
BECAUSE...
...EVEN THOUGHT OF...
..SUCH A THING.
R-RAHZEL!
ARE-ARE-ARE YOU NUTS?!
WH-WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
I'M REMAKING.
!!
chuke
chuke
chuke
WHAT?!
...SINCE THEY WERE RAHZENSHIA'S CLOTHES.
I'M REMAKING MY OLD CLOTHES...

...IS VERY STRONG AND BEAUTIFUL.
I THINK THAT FACING YOUR OWN UGLINESS...
...AND TRYING TO CHANGE YOURSELF-- TURNING YOUR SCARS INTO STRENGTHS...
I SEE...
THAT MUST'VE BEEN HORRIBLE...
NO!!
I DIDN'T WANT TO DIE!
BUT I KILLED MY OWN MOMMY...
...BECAUSE SHE TRIED TO KILL ME!
?
I'M SORRY. MY REAL NAME IS...
...RAH-ZENSHIA.
...MY MOMMY NAMED ME.
I WILL TRY TO MAKE ALL YOUR WISHES COME TRUE!
BE STRONG!
BE STRONG, RAHZEL!
I WILL GIVE YOU POWER THAT FITS YOUR PROUD SOUL.
I NEVER REGRETTED KILLING HER...
SOMEWHERE IN MY HEAD, I WAS THINKING THAT THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO ABOUT IT.
BECAUSE ...!!
I WANTED TO SURVIVE EVEN THOUGH I KNEW IT WAS WRONG!
NO!! NO!!
NO!!
BE STRONG!
OHHH...
WHY DOES MY BODY FEEL SO HEAVY?
...IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I LAST HAD THAT DREAM.
chirp chirp
WILL I BE ABLE TO BECOME SOMEONE...
...I CAN BE PROUD OF?!
THE PAIN WILL NEVER END!
BUT MY WHOLE BODY AND SOUL WERE IN PAIN!
MY FINGERS WILL NEVER STOP SHAKING FROM FEAR!
CAN I ALSO...
..."REMAKE" MYSELF?

IS THAT SLEEPING PILL STILL IN MY SYSTEM--?

N-NO! YOU'LL DIE FROM HYPOTHERMIA!
GET UP RIGHT NOW-!
YOU GUYS'LL CATCH A COLD SLEEPING LIKE THAT!!
A-ALZEID! BAROQUE-HEAT!
WHY'S THE ROOM SUCH A MESS?!
Let me go!
WELCOME HOME.
.....

I'M HOME.
YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?
I'M GOING TO MISS YOU SO MUCH!
Please don't go!
THEN WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH US?
HOW ABOUT ASKING US FIRST?!
I'D ABSOLUTELY LOVE TO TRAVEL WITH YOU!
I KNOW, ALTHOUGH IT IS PRETTY HARD TO BELIEVE
BUT I AM A PRIEST, YOU KNOW.
THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM THE DRUG.
SO I'LL STAY HERE A BIT LONGER TO HELP THEM.
SINCE GOD DOESN'T DO ANY-THING FOR THEM...
...DO I HAVE ANY CHOICE BUT TO HELP THEM ON MY OWN?
SEE YOU LATER!
OKAY!
BYE-BYE!
WAS IT THAT EASY TO LEAVE HIM BEHIND?
COULD YOU LEND ME YOUR EARS?
AND...
WELL, I KNOW THAT BY THE TIME I GET BACK HOME, JELICE WILL BE THERE.

NO! DEFINITELY NOT!
THERE'S NO WAY THAT BEING WITH THIS RAHZEL BORES THEM!
WATCH OUT, GUYS! YOUR GUTS'LL GET ALL TWISTED UP FROM HOW INTERESTING I MAKE YOUR LIVES!
Is your life still damn boring?
Do you think you're fortunate to have your partners?
NO!
THAT'S MY ANSWER
I STILL HAVE NO CLUE WHY I'M TRAVELING WITH SUCH IDIOTS.
Are you satisfied with your current situation?
NO.
NOT THAT I HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS.
EXCEPT THAT I WISH RAHZEL WOULD LET ME TOUCH HER.
Okay, then let me ask you this—
WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE SAYING NOW?
STOP WASTING MY TIME.
WHAT?! THEN FORGET ABOUT WHAT I JUST SAID!
IDIOTS!!

Chapter 27: Scar After Scar
ANY-WAYS!
WHY THE HECK AM I HANDCUFFED AND LOCKED IN A JAIL CELL?!
I LOVE BEING BORED! I WANT BORE-DOM AND PEACE!
REALLY? I FEEL BAD FOR YOU.
DON'T SAY THINGS YOU DON'T REALLY MEAN!

I DON'T WANT TO SOUND LIKE A BROKEN RECORD, BUT I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND...
LISTEN, RAHZEL.
IS THERE SOME REASON WE'RE WANDERING THROUGH BACK ALLEYS RIGHT NOW?
...HOW YOU CAN GET LOST EVERY SINGLE TIME IT'S YOUR TURN TO LEAD.

YES, YOUR MAJEST!
SOMEONE SHOULD BUILD THEM! THIS TOWN NEEDS A NEW CITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT THE PLACES I WANT TO GO AREN'T THERE WHEN I ARRIVE!
SHUT UP! IT'S NOT MY FAULT!

Editor:

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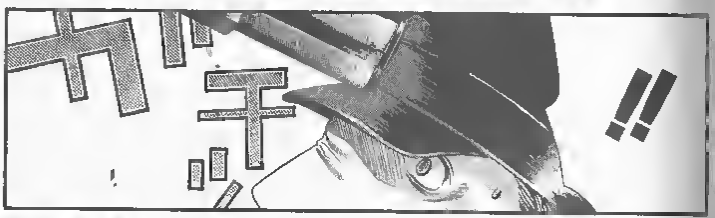
Ayako Sumiyoshi

Thank you so much, everyone!

ガヤ
NO, A DUMPSTER MAGGOT!
A INNOCENT BOY IS SEEKING YOUR HELP! YOU'RE A DEVIL!
YOU REFUSE JUST LIKE THAT? WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
WOW, YOU JUST GOT CALLED A "DUMPSTER MAGGOT"!
SO HARSH!
HUH?
HEL--
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
Ehh?
NO WAY!
HELP ME!!
YEAH.
YOU'RE THE REASON WE'RE STUCK IN HERE.
THEY'LL KILL ME TOO, IF THEY CAPTURE ME!
I CAN'T TRUST THEM!
LISTEN, KID, IF YOU'RE IN TROUBLE, YOU SHOULD GO TO THE POLICE.
OKAY? ♡
MY DAD WAS IN HERE, TOO.
I'M SORRY.
GOT ANYTHING TO SAY FOR YOURSELF, KID?
Tweeee!
I FOUND HIM! OVER HERE!
GO ON.
I'M LISTENING.
AND I DON'T WANNA DIE BEFORE I CAN AVENGE MY DAD!

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?!
OH? ARE WE LEAVING ALREADY?
I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING IF PRISON FOOD SUCKS AS MUCH AS THEY SAY.
WAIT--!!
HOW DID YOU GET OUT OF THERE?!
HEY, YOU!!
HOLD ON A SEC! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!


!!

H--
HEY! ALZEID! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
KID! RELIEVE THE OFFICER OF HIS WEAPON.
O-OKAY...
YOU CAME JUST IN TIME!
I'D LIKE YOU TO TAKE US TO YOUR BOSS.

BUT LAST MONTH, A NEW WARDEN GOT TRANSFERRED TO THIS PRISON...
...AND HE HAD MY DAD PUT TO DEATH!
HE WAS UP FOR EARLY RELEASE BECAUSE HE WAS A MODEL PRISONER.

BUT I NEVER GOT ONE. SO I WENT TO THE POLICE STATION TO ASK, BUT THEY ENDED UP CHASING ME.
I JUST COULDN'T ACCEPT THAT, SO I REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE WARDEN.
THERE WAS NO EXPLANATION GIVEN FOR HIS EXECUTION, AND HIS BODY WAS NEVER RELEASED TO US.

IF YOU SAY YOU NEED MY HELP, I HAVE NO REASON TO HANG AROUND HERE.
LET'S GO.
DO YOU WANT MY HELP?
WHAT?
YOU WANT REVENGE, DON'T YOU?

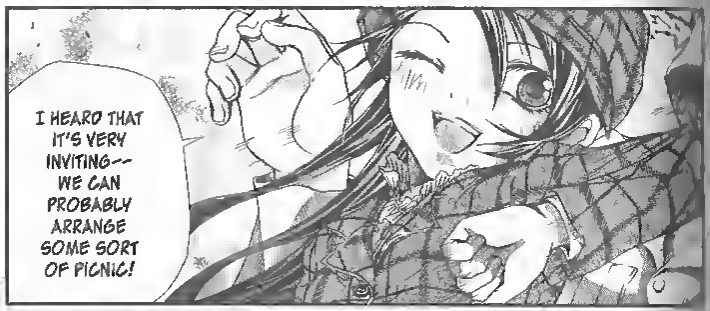
SO YOU WANT TO INSULT ME TOO, HUH?
YOU BOTH WANT TO DIE?
BAROQUEHEAT! DON'T PLAY WITH ALZEID'S WORDS, EVEN THOUGH IT'S FUN!
AND I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANT TO!!
DAMN
No!
JUST LISTEN TO ME!
HA HA! YOU WANT TO FIGHT? I'M NOT SURE YOU CAN HANDLE IT.
Anyone who comes up against me pays dearly.
UGH, IDIOTS! NO FIGHTING!
...ISN'T THE REASON WE'RE TRAVELING WITH YOU.
HELPING WITH YOUR STUPID REVENGE...
DON'T MISUNDERSTAND US, ALZEID.
OKAY. YOU CAN GO NOW.
THIS IS IT.

HOW COME YOU GOT TO KEEP YOUR GUN?!
I ALSO HELD ONTO MY CIGARETTES.
CHA-RISMA!!
I DON'T KNOW...
CHA-RISMA?
They took my bag right away!
Help me!
...THAN IT IS TO FACE YOUR OWN SCAR OR PAIN.
NOTHING... IT'S JUST EASIER TO HELP SOMEONE WHO HAS THE SAME SCAR AS YOU...
Isn't that so?
BY THE WAY, WHAT CHANGED YOUR MIND?
IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO WANT TO HELP SOMEONE.
IF IT'S A FIGHT YOU WANT, I'LL BE HAPPY TO OBLIGE.
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
IS IT BECAUSE YOU ALSO WANT TO AVENGE YOUR FATHER'S DEATH?

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
WELCOME TO THE FAMOUS ARIAMAEL PRISON FIGHT ARENA!!
MY NAME IS LIESFELD, AND I'M THE WARDEN HERE!
LET ME BRIEFLY EXPLAIN THE RULES FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR NEW INMATES.
YOU'VE ALL BEEN CHOSEN AS GLADIATORS TO BATTLE IN THIS ARENA.
FIGHT USING WHATEVER WEAPONS YOU CAN LAY YOUR HANDS ON, UNTIL YOU DIE.
THIS IS A ZERO-SUM GAME WHERE ALL THE GLORY GOES TO THE SINGLE GLADIATOR LEFT STANDING AT THE END.
ALTHOUGH YOU'D USUALLY FIGHT WHILE AN EXCITED CROWD CHEERS YOU ON...
...THIS PARTICULAR GAME IS A SPECIAL EVENT JUST FOR OUR GUESTS...
...SO IT'LL BE A LOT QUIETER THAN USUAL.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THAT.
BUT I PROMISE YOU THAT THE WINNER WILL STILL GET THE STANDARD PRIZE!
SO, HAVE FUN KILLING EACH OTHER!

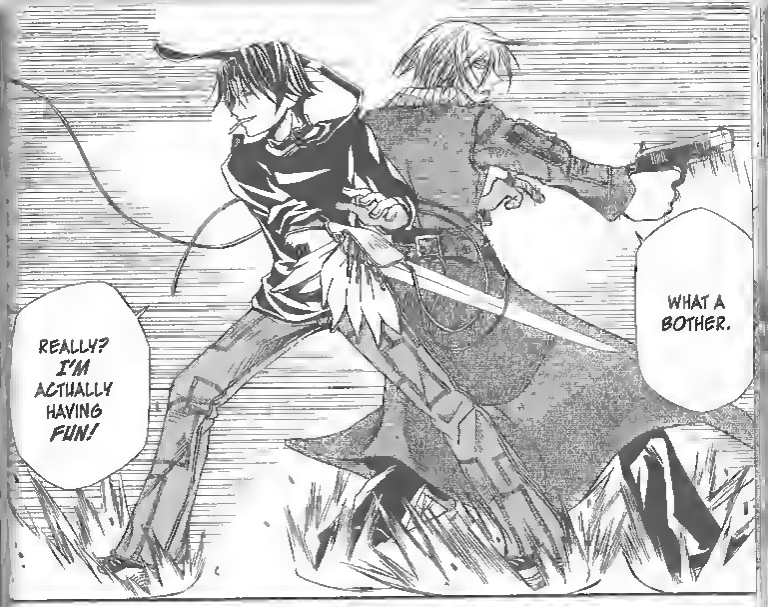
WELL, YOU...SHALL I NAME YOU MR. YAMADA?
IT'S ELMER!
All right!
JUST TRY TO AVOID ALL THE ATTACKS, ELMER!!
SEND THEM TO HELL!!
SHUT UP, BALDIE!
THE REFLECTION OFF YOUR BALD HEAD WAS SO BRIGHT, I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND A SINGLE BALD WORD COMING OUT OF YOUR FACE!
NO MATTER HOW BALDLY YOU WHINE AND CRY, YOU'RE STILL BALD. BALD!
LISTEN, EVERYONE! I'M MAKING A SPECIAL RULE FOR TODAY ONLY!
I'LL CONSIDER A PAROLE FOR THE WINNER...
...IF YOU MAKE THOSE JOKERS SUFFER THE CRUELEST DEATH IMAGINABLE!!
WH--?!
WHA--?!
WH--?
WOW, THE REEK OF THAT BALD GUY'S SWEAT IS MAKING ME DIZZY!
WH--WHAAT?!
THEY'RE PROBABLY HAPPY TO DROP THE SOAP FOR HIM.
PLUS HE'S GOT A REAL CREEPY HAREM HANGING AROUND HIM HERE!
YOU THINK MAYBE..
...SOMETHING CRAZY LIKE THIS IS HOW MY DAD DIED?

I WONDER WHAT HELL IS LIKE...?


I HEARD THAT IT'S VERY INVITING--- WE CAN PROBABLY ARRANGE SOME SORT OF PICNIC!

PLEASE MAKE SURE MY OMELET... ...IS SWEET AND SOFT AND FULL OF FISH BASE!!

WAUGH!!
UNFORTUNATELY...


WHAT A BOTHER.
REALLY? I'M ACTUALLY HAVING FUN!

I'M CONFISCATING THE GUN FROM YOU!!
OH, MAN!
ARE YOU GIVIN' ME LIP?!

CAN I STILL FIRE WARNING SHOTS?
I MAY SHOOT SOMEONE BY MISTAKE THOUGH...
HOW ABOUT IF I JUST USE THE FLAT OF THE BLADE?
I MIGHT ACCIDENTALLY SLICE SOME PEOPLE UP THOUGH...
DON'T CALL IT A MISTAKE WHEN YOU KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO KILL THEM!!

THAT'S NO WAY TO HAVE FUN!
YOU TWO IDIOTS! GET RID OF THOSE DANGEROUS WEAPONS!
No!
DON'T USE THEM IN FRONT OF AN INNOCENT GIRL LIKE ME!!

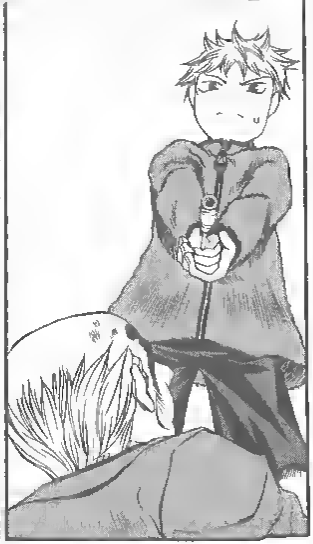
I'M NOT USED TO BEING LOOKED DOWN ON.
WOW, ALZEID. YOU'RE SUCH A SNOB.
It's not funny
I don't really care
As long as I get to eat
WELL, I LOVE FRIED CHICKEN..
BY THE WAY, I CAN'T ELIMINATE FRIED CHICKEN FROM OUR MENU.
EH?! YOU DON'T LIKE SWEET OMELETS EITHER, LITTLE BOY ALF?
OH YEAH!
RIGHT.
...WE'RE NOT QUITE READY TO LEAVE THIS WORLD.
RIGHT? ♡
RIGHT?
HOW ABOUT WE BRING HIM DOWN TO OUR LEVEL?
I KINDA UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, THOUGH.
tap tap
SWEET OMELETS ARE A TOTAL FAUX PAS!
WHY? IT'S PRETTY GOOD!
I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH YOU LIKE THEM!
SUGAR ON EGGS BREAKS SO MANY CULINARY RULES!
...I DON'T CARE FOR IT.
BAROQUE-HEAT!
EH?
ME?
WELL, I'M SORRY TO SAY THIS WHEN WE CAN FINALLY RELAX..
BUT I CAN'T DENY THAT WE'VE GOT TO FACE A NEW PROBLEM RIGHT AWAY!

AYE-AYE, SIR!
UGH...
URRGH...
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
Aaaah!
UGH!
EEEP!
GYAAAAH!!

SORRY...

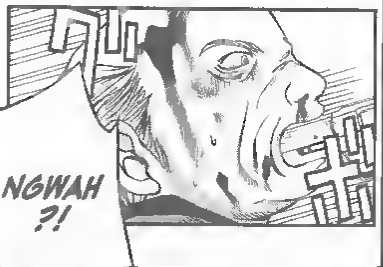
UNLESS YOU WANT YOUR FRIENDS TO DIE, PUT DOWN THE GUN.

ANSWER ME!!
DID MY DAD DIE FOR YOUR STUPID GAME?!



SHUT UP!!
LIKE I CAN REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT SOME STUPID CRIMINAL.
I HAVE NO IDEA.

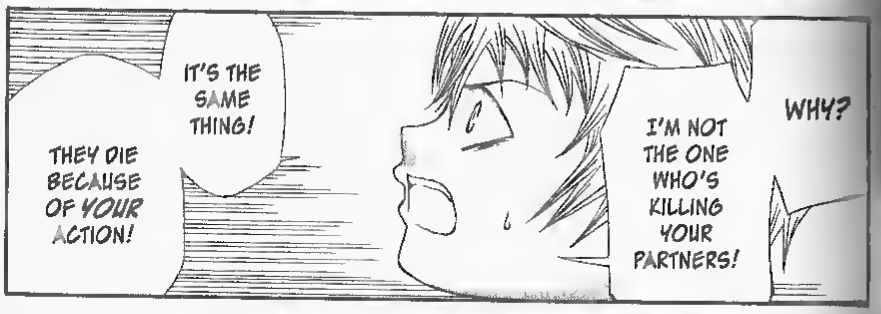
ELMER.


NGWAH ?!

!!
OH NO! WE'VE BEEN CAPTURED! ♡

HMPH! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS TO SHUT UP!
LOOK BEHIND YOU!

I'M JUST PLANNING MY REVENGE, JUST LIKE YOU.
YOU WANT REVENGE FOR YOUR FAMILY.
I'LL DO THE SAME FOR MY PARTNERS.
...WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
AS SOON AS YOU SHOOT THIS BALD GUY, MY PARTNERS WILL BE KILLED.


THEY DIE BECAUSE OF YOUR ACTION!
IT'S THE SAME THING!
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO'S KILLING YOUR PARTNERS!
WHY?

AND SOON...
...SOMEONE WILL COME TO KILL ME ALSO.
THEY'RE VERY IMPORTANT TO ME, AND I WON'T FORGIVE ANYTHING THAT TAKES THEM AWAY FROM ME!
SO AFTER I SHOOT YOU, I'M GOING TO KILL EVERYONE ELSE HERE.

IF YOU'RE SHAKING LIKE A LEAF, YOU'LL NEVER HIT THE TARGET!
HERE. AIM A LITTLE HIGHER!
YOU'VE GOT TO KILL HIM WITH ONE SHOT, BECAUSE YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE IN A BEEHIVE OF BULLETS!

THE BULLET WILL GO THROUGH HIS SKULL, SPLASHING WARM BLOOD AND BRAIN FLUID ALL OVER.
AND FROM THEN ON YOU'LL HAVE RECURRING NIGHTMARES OF VIVID COLORS AND DEAD FACES...
...WITH THEIR EYES POPPING OUT AND LEAKING BITS OF BRAIN.
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THIS?
GO AHEAD!
OKAY, THEN!
OF COURSE!
OF...

WAH...
WAAAAAAAH!!
3.
OH...
WAHH...
WAHHH...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?
WHAT ABOUT THIS GUY? A BUNCH OF PEOPLE ARE DYING BECAUSE OF HIM!
ARE YOU READY TO TAKE THE PAIN YOU FEEL IN YOUR HEART...
...AND INFLICT IT ON ME AND EVERYONE WHO COMES AFTER?
THIS IS WHAT KILLING PEOPLE MEANS.
DO YOU HAVE THE COURAGE TO PERPETUATE A NEVER-ENDING CHAIN OF SADNESS?
I KNOW.
I APOLOGIZE.
I'M SORRY.
BUT I DON'T CARE ABOUT 10 LIVES, 100 LIVES, OR 10,000 LIVES...
...THAT ARE ALREADY GONE.
I CARE ABOUT THESE TWO HERE.

HOW OLD ARE YOU?
ESPECIALLY FOR A YOUNG MAN WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE!
IT'S DEFINITELY COMPLETELY STUPID!
RAHZEL, DIDN'T YOU SAY...
..."REVENGE IS AN ACT OF STUPIDITY"?
I swear to the sunset!!
What?
ふっ
!!
HEY, BALDIE! YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU COULD ESCAPE THAT EASILY, DID YOU?
ALL RIGHT, MEN. TAKE THEM INTO CUSTODY...
GOOD GOO.
...AND SLAM THEM EACH INTO SOLITARY--
THE ANSWER IS: "NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS."
AH HA HA... YOU MAY BE RIGHT.
WHATEVER THE REASON FOR IT IS, KILLING IS KILLING FOREVER.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S BETTER TO AVOID...
...CREATING ONE SCAR ON TOP OF ANOTHER?
AND THUS BEGINS A BEATING MORE CRUEL THAN DEATH!!
...WILL GIVE YOU A VERY SPECIAL TREAT!!
AT THIS VERY MOMENT, ME AND ALZEID...
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL!
ゴキ
バキ
ENJOY.
WELL, THERE'S A SPECIAL RULE CHANGE FOR TODAY ONLY!
IT'S NOW LEGAL TO CUT OUT THE WARDEN'S HEART!

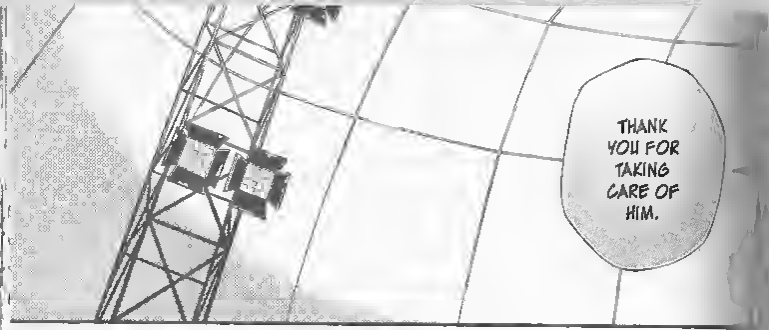
I'M GOING TO BECOME A CUTE OLD GRANNY!
PLEASE BECOME NICE OLD GENTLEMEN AND COME HANG OUT WITH ME, GUYS!

DON'T TWIST MY WORDS AROUND!
I feel her love!
OH MAN! WHAT SHE WAS SAYING BACK THERE WAS DRIVING ME CRAZY!
"HE'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON TO ME. HE'S THE BEST MAN IN MY LIFE AND I LOVE HIM AND WANT TO MAKE LOVE TO HIM"...
Don't ask me stupid questions!
I WILL NEVER DIE, AND I WON'T LET YOU GUYS DIE, EITHER.
I PLAN ON BECOMING A NAUGHTY OLD WOMAN SOMEDAY! I'LL HAVE A HAPPY LIFE SIPPING TEA IN MY GARDEN!
NO WAY!
NEVER!
BUT YOU'LL AVENGE OUR DEATHS, RIGHT?
If we get killed I mean.
WE SINK OR SWIM TOGETHER!

OF COURSE!
OH WELL. THEY'RE TAKING A SIDE TRIP AGAIN...
...WHEN THEIR SCHEDULE IS ALL BOOKED UP.
THE GAME HAS JUST BEGUN
ENTERTAIN ME, GUYS!
WELL, NO MATTER.
I CAN WATCH THEM A BIT LONGER.
ANMAN, SHOKU-MAN, CURRY-MAN!
JAM, BUTTER, CHEESE, MAN MAN MAANN!
"I WON'T LET YOU DO SUCH A THING!"
OUR MEAT-MAN!
STEAMED UP...
"Sung with the melody of THOSE songs!
.....

WOOOWN!
LOOK! THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE HERE ALREADY!
I DON'T APPRECIATE PEOPLE WHO HOLD THEMSELVES ALOOF FROM OTHERS!
WHAT? YOU'RE ACTUALLY PART OF THIS CROWD.
WHY ARE YOU SO EXCITED?
I HATE CROWDS.
ARE YOU BY YOURSELF? YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR MOM?
I SEE.
Nod.
Beijing
IT WASN'T MY IDEA TO COME HERE.
WE NEED A BREAK...
...SOMETIMES...?

Chapter 28: Ever So Small and Delicate Lullaby--Part 1: Drab Circus


THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF HIM.

ROMARIO, SAY "THANK YOU" TO THE NICE FOLKS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! WE WERE HAVING FUN WITH HIM.
THANK YOU!
WE HOPE TO HAVE OUR OWN CHILD REAL SOON!
BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR...

RAHZEL, IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME SEEING A CIRCUS?
NOPE. IT'S MY SECOND TIME.
I DON'T REMEMBER MY FIRST TIME MUCH THOUGH, SINCE I WAS REALLY LITTLE.
HOW ABOUT YOU, BAROQUE-HEAT?

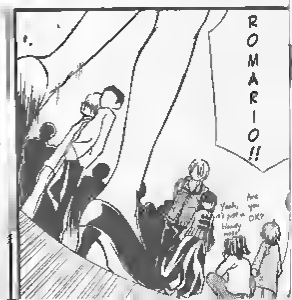
OUCH!! ALL I DID WAS PUT MY ARM AROUND YOUR SHOULDERS!!
Punch
WAH!! OKAY! I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!
THE SHOW'S STARTING. QUIET!

SO MY NICKNAME'S STILL HUSTLE?
NUMBER TWO?!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I DON'T LIKE THAT NAME!
HOW ABOUT WE JUST NICK-NAME YOU HUSTLE NUMBER ONE?
OH WHERE, OH WHERE HAS HIS LITTLE MOM GONE ..?
HOW ABOUT NUMBER TWO?

LET'S ROLL!
ALL RIGHT!! NOW, LET'S START A NEW EVENT CALLED, "SEARCH FOR HIS MOM~~ WHO'S THE BEST PIN-UP GIRL OF THE CENTURY?!"
WAH!!
ROGER!

DON'T WE LOOK LIKE THE PERFECT FAMILY RIGHT NOW?
YOU'RE REALLY FUNNY TODAY, BAROQUE-HEAT!
PRETTY YOUNG WIFE, A KID, AND A WHITE DOG! ♡
Take that!
.....

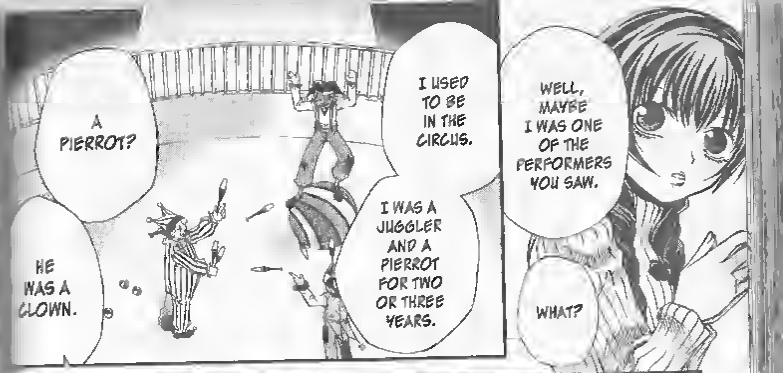
MOM!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! I WAS LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!

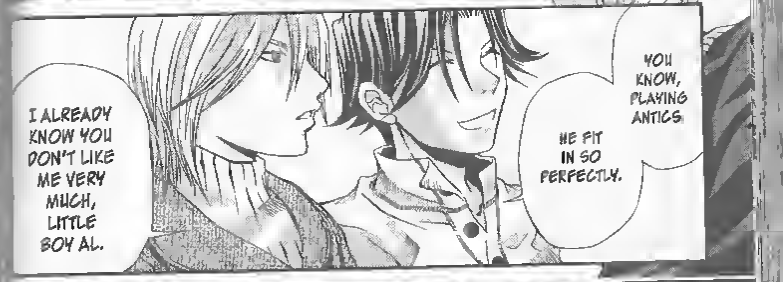

ROMARIO!!

AND THE ANSWER IS...I WAS A STRIPPER!
ding ding
DOING WHAT KIND OF JOB?!
OH MY, WHAT KIND OF JOB WAS IT?
LET'S THINK! TICK TOCK, TICK TOCK TIME!
TOO MUCH INFORMATION!!
↑Counting down.

WANT ME TO TEACH YOU?
NO, HE CAN'T!!
REALLY?
SHUT UP AND WATCH.
...'KAY.

BLAH.
Ooh~
He's really into it
HE HAS TO BE CAREFUL WITH HIS HANDS!
HE PLAYS THE PIANO.
YEP.
SO YOU USED TO DO STUFF LIKE THAT, BAROQUE-HEAT?
THAT'S AMAZING! I WONDER IF I COULD TRY THAT.


A PIERROT?
HE WAS A CLOWN.
I USED TO BE IN THE CIRCUS.
I WAS A JUGGLER AND A PIERROT FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS.
WELL, MAYBE I WAS ONE OF THE PERFORMERS YOU SAW.
WHAT?


I ALREADY KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE ME VERY MUCH, LITTLE BOY AL.
HE FIT IN SO PERFECTLY.
YOU KNOW, PLAYING ANTICS.

I REALIZED THAT I COULD MAKE EVEN MORE MONEY IN SHOW BUSINESS BY DANCING AND TAKING OFF MY CLOTHES.
THEN IF YOU WERE SO GOOD AT IT, HOW COME YOU QUIT?

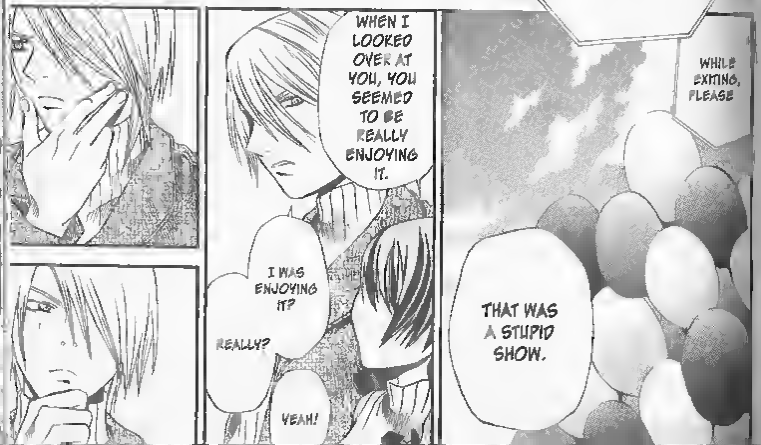
HEY, YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR STUFF!

BUT USUALLY ONLY THE BEST PERFORMERS IN THE CIRCUS GET TO BE THE CLOWNS.
REALLY?

THAT BOY RIGHT THERE!
M-ME?!
YES! PLEASE COME DOWN TO THE RING!
PLEASE ENJOY THIS ENTICING ILLUSION!
THIS WILL BE OUR FINAL ACT OF THE NIGHT!
BEFORE I BEGIN, COULD I HAVE A VOLUNTEER FROM THE AUDIENCE?
IT'S A TOTAL SURPRISE BAROQUEHEAT HAD A JOB LIKE THIS BEFORE.
BESIDES, ALSO HAVING BEEN IN THE ARMY.
BUT...
I'LL BE DARNED.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT BAROQUEHEAT.
OF COURSE, HE WAS A STRANGER TO ME JUST THREE MONTHS AGO.
SOME-THING ON YOUR MIND, RAHZEL?
I ALSO DON'T KNOW HOW LONG WE'LL BE TOGETHER LIKE THIS.
NOTHING. I'M JUST IRRITATED AT YOU.
...I SEE.
Pinch
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
ROMARIO.
NICE TO MEET YOU, ROMARIO OH, WHAT BEAUTIFUL HANDS YOU HAVE!
I PLAY THE PIANO!
I SEE.
THEY TRULY ARE SUCH NICE HANDS!
VERY BEAUTI-FUL.

ACK!!
THREE!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOON!
THANK YOU FOR WATCHING OUR CIRCUS SHOW TODAY!


WHEN I LOOKED OVER AT YOU, YOU SEEMED TO BE REALLY ENJOYING IT.
I WAS ENJOYING IT?
REALLY?
YEAH!
THAT WAS A STUPID SHOW.
WHILE EXITING, PLEASE

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
THIS BRAVE LITTLE BOY WILL CHALLENGE...
...THIS CREEPY BUT COLORFUL BOX WITH NO CONTRIVANCE OR TRICK!

NOW, LET'S SEE IF THE BOY IS ALL RIGHT.
ONE...
TWO...

WHOA!
Hmm...

OH DEAR. THE CLOWNS SEEM TO BE IN A BIT OF A RUSH!

WOW! A BALLOON!
IT'S ROUND AND CUTE! IT HAS A MYSTERIOUS HEALING POW--
POP!
EH HEH HEH. YEAH. IT'S OVER NOW.
YOU WERE HAPPY? BUT IT'S OVER NOW?
RAHZEL! WANT A BALLOON?
IT'S FILLED WITH GOOD DREAMS!
...WALKING ALL DAY IN THE MOUNTAINS AND SLEEPING OUTSIDE IN THE PIERCING COLD.
I UNDERSTAND THAT FROM NOW ON WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO OUR CRUEL DAILY LIFE...
BEING BITTEN BY BUGS, BEING CHASED BY DOGS, AND STANDING ASIDE TO LET FAMILIES OF BIRDS PASS.
HUH?
I'm sorry I hit you!
Say it louder.
You're the boss of me!
OUCH.
!!
WHAT'S WRONG?
THAT'S ROMARIO'S MOTHER.
WHY ARE YOU BLUSHING? IT'S CREEPY.
?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO COME HERE.
HUH?
HGH, WHY CAN'T HE JUST ACCEPT THE FACTS?
IMPOSSIBLE.
ACTUALLY, I THINK HE'S JUST BEING CUTE.
I WAS JUST HAPPY!
...
Y'KNOW?
I REALLY ENJOYED THE CIRCUS, BUT...
...MORE IMPORTANTLY... HOW CAN I SAY..
W-WELL... YOU KNOW!
SO...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE THREE OF US WENT OUT TOGETHER TO DO SOMETHING FUN.

...DAMMIT.
WHAT THE HELL IS SHE UP TO NOW?
QUIT YOUR BELLYACHING.
ZZZZZZZZZ
Right. I kinda knew you'd be like that.
IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA FOR A GIRL TO WALK AROUND BY HERSELF AT THIS HOUR.
WELL, WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO ABOUT IT? WANNA GO AFTER HER WITH ME?

OH...
I CAN'T LET THAT BOY OUT OF MY SIGHT FOR EVEN A MOMENT.
MISS RAHZEL...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE CIRCUS MANAGER SAID HE ALREADY SENT HIM HOME
EVER SINCE ROMARIO WENT INTO THAT BOX, I CAN'T FIND HIM ANYWHERE.
So he wanders off all the time?

BUT I DON'T WANT TO IMPOSE ON YOU...
IT'S NO PROBLEM! WE CAN FIND HIM EASIER WITH TWO PEOPLE, RIGHT?
.....
HE MIGHT ALREADY BE HOME, SINCE IT'S SO LATE AT NIGHT NOW.
WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME AND CHECK? I'LL STAY AND LOOK FOR HIM AROUND HERE.
THANK YOU SO MUCH... I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T JUST GO WAKING UP THE CIRCUS PEOPLE...
...SINCE THEY SEEM TO BE SLEEPING.
...BUT I'M STARTING TO WONDER IF HE'S BEEN KIDNAPPED...
...SINCE IT'S SO LATE, AND HE'S STILL MISSING.
A
!!
OH...
HE'S STILL MISSING?

Chapter 29:
Ever So Small and Delicate Lullaby--Part 2: Opening Bell

DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
IDIOT!!
ALTHOUGH IT'S MY FAULT FOR BREAKING AND ENTERING...
..YOU CAN'T JUST ATTACK ME FROM BEHIND—
WAH?!
TAP
YIKES!
I ALMOST HAD A HEART ATTACK!

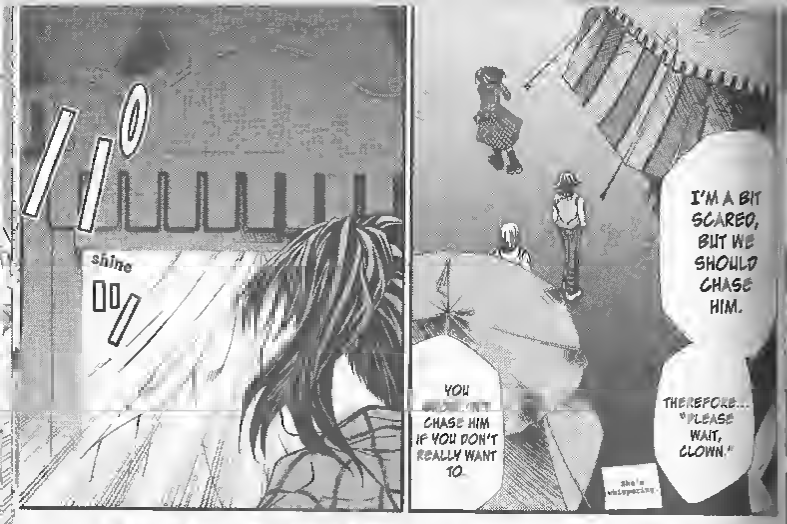
EXCUSE ME?
IS ANYBODY HERE?
HELLO?
ANYBODY --?!
MM...
MMM!!
!!
UGH!
HEY, YOU!

YOU'RE A FUNNY GIRL, RAHZEL.
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO ALL BY YOURSELF?
EEEEK?!
HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
WHEREVER YOU GO, THOUGH IT BE THROUGH FIRE AND FLOOD, I'LL BE THERE!
ANSWER MY QUESTION!
MISSION: CAPTURE RAHZEL-- ACCOMPLISHED!
BAROQUE-HEAT?!
RAHZEL, I ADMIT THAT YOU'RE PRETTY STRONG.
YOU PROBABLY CAN TAKE CARE OF LOTS OF THINGS BY YOURSELF.
BUT WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF SOMEONE STRONGER THAN YOU TRIED TO ATTACK YOU LIKE THIS?
SIZZ
Wah!
IT'S SO EASY TO PUSH YOU DOWN LIKE THIS. HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF, HMM?
AS YOUR OLDER BROTHER, I CAN MAKE FUN OF YOU.
SHOULDN'T I BE ASKING YOU?
WHY'D YOU LEAVE BY YOURSELF LATE AT NIGHT LIKE THIS?
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST ASK ME TO COME WITH YOU?
REALLY?
I'LL BE FINE.
YOU SHOULD ASK BECAUSE IT'S SO LATE.
BECAUSE IT WAS LATE, AND I DIDN'T WANT TO WAKE YOU UP
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO IF SOMEONE ATTACKS YOU LIKE THIS AGAIN?

.....
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.
Stupid jerk!
YOU'RE A CENTIPEDE THAT CAN CRAWL AROUND EVEN WITHOUT A BRAIN.
THE CENTIPEDE IS AN ARTHROPOD OF CLASS CHILOPODA. IT'S NOT AN INSECT!
THE HEROINE? THERE'S NOTHING SO ROMANTIC ABOUT YOU.
YOU'RE JUST AN INSECT.
YOU SON OF A BITCH!!
DIDN'T YOU REALIZE YOU PUT YOUR FOOT ON THE FACE OF THE HEROINE?!
.....!!
I THOUGHT YOU'D LEARNED YOUR LESSON FROM LAST TIME.
THE STUPID CHICK'S STUPID BECAUSE NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES SHE FACES A STUPID SITUATION, SHE KEEPS DOING STUPID THINGS.
ANYWAY, CAN YOU ADMIT THAT YOU'RE STUPID AND TRY TO IMPROVE YOURSELF OR SOMETHING, STUPID CHICK?
This is the season 1 time.
WHY DO I HAVE TO GET UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT FOR SUCH A WOMAN?!
I'M VERY, VERY, VERY TIRED!
UGH! I'M TIRED!
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW MUCH ALZEID AND I WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU LAST TIME?
CAN YOU IMAGINE THE FEAR OF LOSING SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO YOU...
...WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS...
...AND YOU CAN'T BE THERE TO SAVE IT?
WHAT IF I TRIED TO ATTACK YOU?
WHAT IF I SERIOUSLY WANT TO KILL YOU RIGHT NOW?
WHAT IF I FORCED YOU...
HUH?

NO PROBLEM, IDIOT.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? SHE'S A TEENAGER.
THIS LITTLE GIRL DOESN'T GET ME EXCITED.
MAYBE...
HEY, LITTLE BOY AL. COULDN'T YOU HAVE GOTTEN HERE A LITTLE LATER?
SHE GOT WHAT SHE NEEDS TO DO THE DEED.
MAYBE I'M NOT SO HAPPY NOW.
I WOULD HAVE LET YOU JOIN US AFTER A WHILE, YOU KNOW?
IT WAS SUCH A NICE SITUATION!
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!!
...ISN'T MOVING AT ALL. IS HE STILL ALIVE?
THE CLOWN THAT YOU KICKED EARLIER...
BY THE WAY, STUPID CHICK...
AYE AYE, MASTER ALZEID! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

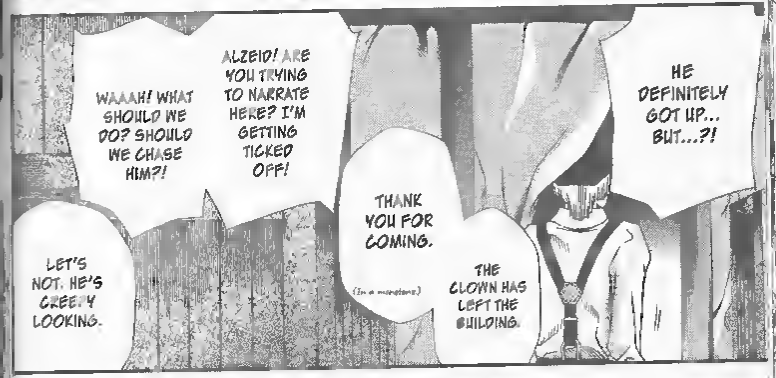
SINCE WHEN YOU ARE MY GUARDIANS?!
GIMME A BREAK!!
WHAT GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO ACT SO SNOBBISH, WHEN YOU'RE THE ONES WHO DECIDED TO COME OUT HERE ON YOUR OWN?!
WHAT THE HECK IS YOUR PROBLEM?
WHO ASKED YOU TO WORRY ABOUT ME?!
HOW LONG'RE YOU GONNA BE HANGING ON TO ME?! PERVERT JERK!!
Get off!!
THANK YOU.
I'M SOOO GLAD YOU CAME.


shine
I'M A BIT SCARED, BUT WE SHOULD CHASE HIM.
YOU CHASE HIM IF YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO.
THEREFORE... "PLEASE WAIT, CLOWN."
She's whispering

CALM DOWN. HE GOT UP JUST AS YOU WISHED.
AND HE EVEN SMILED.
Ah ah ah!

I DIDN'T KICK HIM THAT HARD!
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?! DID HE LAND WRONG?
NOOO! WAKE UP!

THEY'VE TURNED THE WELCOME LIGHT ON FOR US.
WOW.


WAAAH! WHAT SHOULD WE DO? SHOULD WE CHASE HIM?!
ALZEID! ARE YOU TRYING TO NARRATE HERE? I'M GETTING TICKED OFF!
HE DEFINITELY GOT UP... BUT...?!
LET'S NOT. HE'S CREEPY LOOKING.
THANK YOU FOR COMING.
(In a monotone)
THE CLOWN HAS LEFT THE BUILDING.

YOU MUST KNOW MY ANSWER ALREADY!

THEY'RE CHALLENGING US TO A FIGHT.
OR NOT?
SHALL WE ACCEPT ...?

INCORRECT! WE'RE HERE TO LOOK FOR THE MISSING LITTLE BOY, ROMARIO!!!
I'M HERE BECAUSE RAHZEL IS ABOUT TO PERFORM A LONE SCENE.
I AGREE WITH YOU 100 PERCENT! BUT WHY ARE WE HERE RIGHT NOW?
BAROQUEHEAT! YOUR ANSWER!
NO WAY!

WE'RE NOT WATCHING THE SHOW! WE'RE IN THE SHOW!
WE'RE LUCKY TO GET TO WATCH THESE GUYS PERFORM FOR FREE.
WE SHOULD ASK THEM TO PAY US FOR JOINING IN!
EGEK!!
Foom!

カッ…
WELCOME TO THE CIRCUS, PRETTY LADY.
!!

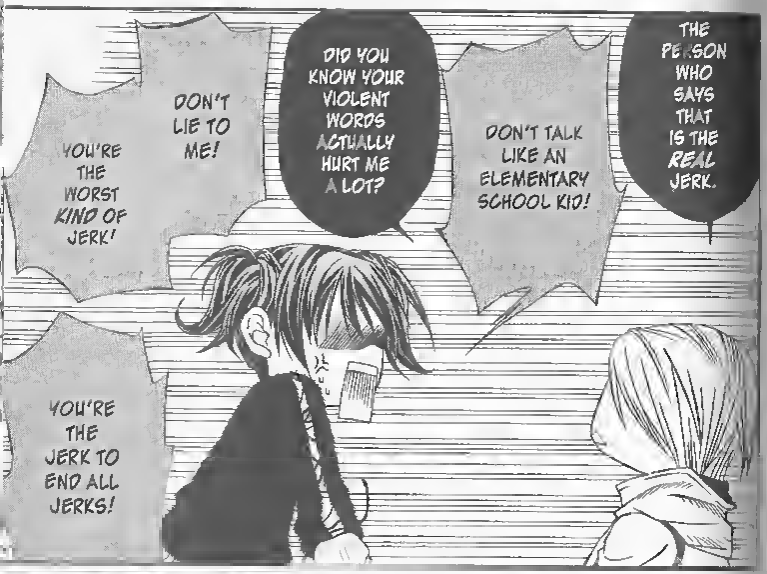
AND I ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK YOU... WHAT'S WITH THAT ARM OF YOURS?!
I HATE SEEING BODY PARTS FLYING EVERYWHERE!
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
NOOOO!!
IT'S SO COOL--I'M TOTALLY JEALOUS! I WANT ONE! I WANT ONE! YEAH!
CALM DOWN, RAHZEL!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
WHAT'S DIFFERENT?
THAT'S DIFFERENT.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED TO SAY! HOW COME YOU JUST KILL RIGHT AWAY?!
AND THIS STRING...
NO. IT'S MADE OF SOME KIND OF PLASTIC.
BUT THESE CLOWNS ARE CREEPY DOLLS.
EXACTLY. I HAVE NO IDEA HOW THEY CAN MOVE AROUND LIKE THAT.
...ALTHOUGH HIS SKIN FEELS HUMAN.
THE INSIDE OF HIS ARM IS MADE OF WOOD...?
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU BETTER BUY ME A NEW ONE!
WH...?!
ALZEID, LEMME BORROW YOUR JACKET!
OH MY GOD! IT'S COLD!
!!
NO WAY.
RAHZEL, GET AWAY FROM THERE!
EH?

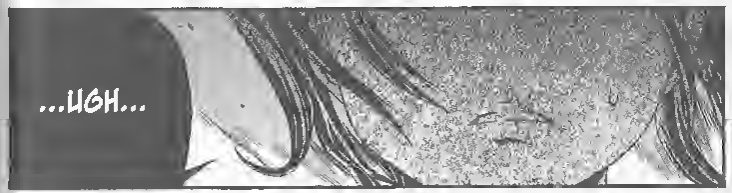
GREAT!
PLEASE, ENJOY THE SHOW!
THANK YOU FOR COMING...
...TO OUR CIRCUS SHOW TODAY!
MY NAME IS ILEEZHA PARTNEL! I'M THE RINGMASTER OF THIS CIRCUS!
MISS? DO YOU LIKE THE CIRCUS?
HUH?
I GUESS...
OH MY GOD. WHAT A DIRTY MIND.
SORRY, BUT I ALREADY HAVE SOME-ONE.
DO I GET SOME KIND OF PRIZE FOR ANSWERING YOUR RIDDLE?
I'LL ACCEPT YOUR BODY GLADLY.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SEXY LADY?
PLEASE COME ONSTAGE.
YOU CAN PLAY WITH THESE CLOWNS INSTEAD OF ME.

Erk!
MAAAN!!
HOW COME THEY KEEP GETTING UP NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I BEAT THEM DOWN?!
I KNOW THAT!
SHUT UP!
I SHOWED YOU ALREADY. YOU GOTTA CHOP THEM INTO BITS INSTANTLY!

Chapter 30: Ever So Small and Delicate Lullaby--Part 3: Virtual Cradle


THE PERSON WHO SAYS THAT IS THE REAL JERK.
DON'T TALK LIKE AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KID!
DID YOU KNOW YOUR VIOLENT WORDS ACTUALLY HURT ME A LOT?
DON'T LIE TO ME!
YOU'RE THE WORST KIND OF JERK!
YOU'RE THE JERK TO END ALL JERKS!

THERE!!


...UGH...

EH?
Whoosh
Oh!
WHAT THE HECK?! OF COURSE I CAN! EASILY!
Hmph.
BEHIND YOU.
YOU CAN'T TAKE CARE OF 10, 20, 30 DOLLS...
...WITHOUT SOMEONE ELSE'S HELP?

Ahem.
I'M GOING TO NAP FOR A BIT.
JUST KEEP WORK-ING LIKE HORSES.
YOU'RE A REAL JERK, YOU KNOW THAT?!
Waaah!
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE DOLLS, I FEEL LIKE IT'S SO WRONG TO DO THIS!
YOU JUST TOOK A BIG FIRST STEP TOWARD BECOMING A BAD GIRL! ♡
WELL...

BALANCING ON A LADDER WITHOUT ANY SUPPORT!
YOU KNOW... THAT!
WHAT'S THAT?
"FREESTANDING LADDER!"
LET ME SEE...
whoosh
WHAT O'YOU MEAN, "HOW"?
BUT HOW?
BY MAGIC? OR SOME ACROBAT EQUIPMENT?
BUT I DON'T HAVE TRAINING IN ANYTHING LIKE THAT..
WHAT?!
THEY'RE CHEATING!
OH MY GOD! WE'VE GOTTA DRAG THEM DOWN HERE!
YOU GUYS ARE SUCH GREAT PARTNERS
bang
IDIOT. I TOLD YOU.
OKAY.
I'LL SHOW YOU A COOL PERFORMANCE!
NO WAR
I WANNA SEE YOU DO IT! PLEASE TRY!
LOOK AT THAT! CAN YOU DO THAT?!
#AROGUE-HEAT! LOOK!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS! BUT THAT!
Yeah!
YOU SURE ARE HIGH-STRUNG TODAY, RAHZEL.

HA!
HERE! CATCH!
YOU SUCK AT THIS!
OH NO!! HE'S FALLING!

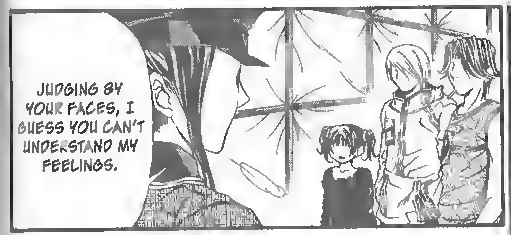
WE'RE LOOKING FOR A BOY NAMED ROMARIO.
COULD YOU TELL US WHAT YOU KNOW?
...NOW...
WELL...
I ALSO CAN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF YOU GETTING HURT BY A CRUEL MAN SUCH AS HIM.
ALZEID! YOU ALWAYS TAKE THE COOLEST PART!
ALL THAT'S LEFT FOR THIS LEVEL IS KILLING THE BOSS, RIGHT?!
SHUT UP.
PLEASE, RIGHT THIS WAY.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HIM?
WHAT'S THIS? SOME KIND OF WAREHOUSE?
TEE HEE... PATIENCE, CHILD.
ROMARIO...
OH, THAT BOY?
THE BOY WITH BEAUTIFUL HANDS.
W--
WOW!!!
THAT WAS SOOO COOL! YOU'RE GREAT!
DO YOU THINK SO? ♥ SAY IT AGAIN.
OH MY GOD!
YOU'RE AMAZING! YOU'RE SO COOL!
SO YOU'RE REALLY PRAISING ME?
HOW ABOUT A KISS? OR MOR--?
WANT TO GIVE ME SOME KIND OF PRIZE?
...BY THE WAY, HOW COME YOU'RE CARRYING THIS THING AROUND?
NO THANKS.
HAVE ONE.

HOO HOO HOO HOO HOO.
HERE HE IS!
ポポポ
ポポポ

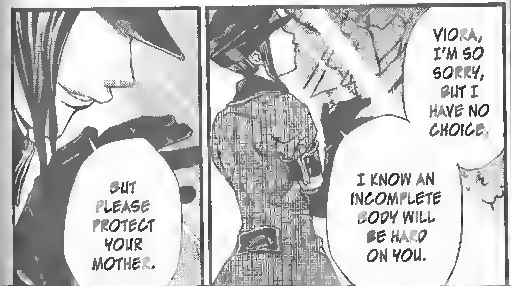
!!

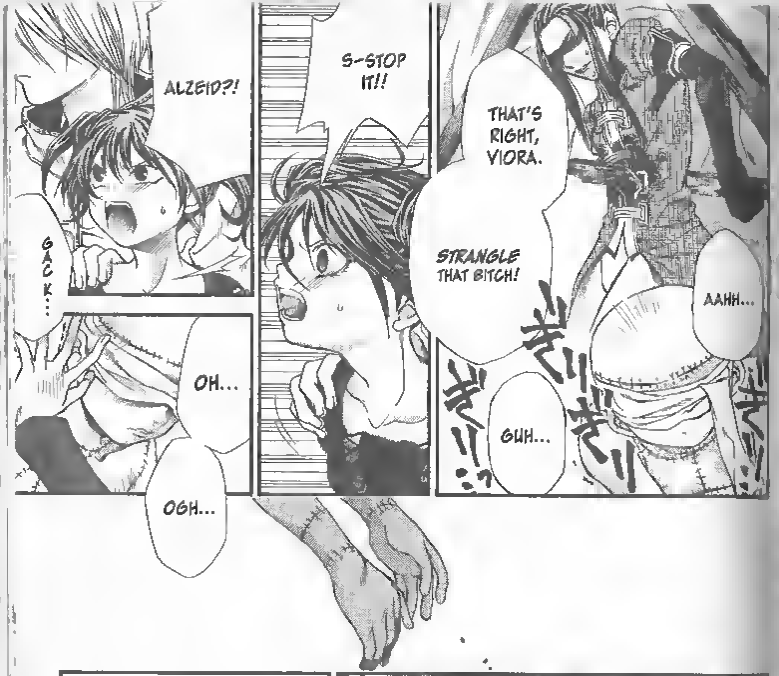
VIORA WILL KILL YOU EASILY...
OH DEAR, YOU GUYS ARE HAVING A FIGHT?
I'LL MAKE YOU FEEL TERRIBLE!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?! I'LL THROW MAGGOTS ON YOU!
IF YOU KEEP WHINING, I'LL SHOOT YOU ALONG WITH HIM!
OH MY GOD! IT'S CREEPY! HE SMELLS LIKE MEDICINE!
THAT'S NOT MY FAULT, IDIOT.

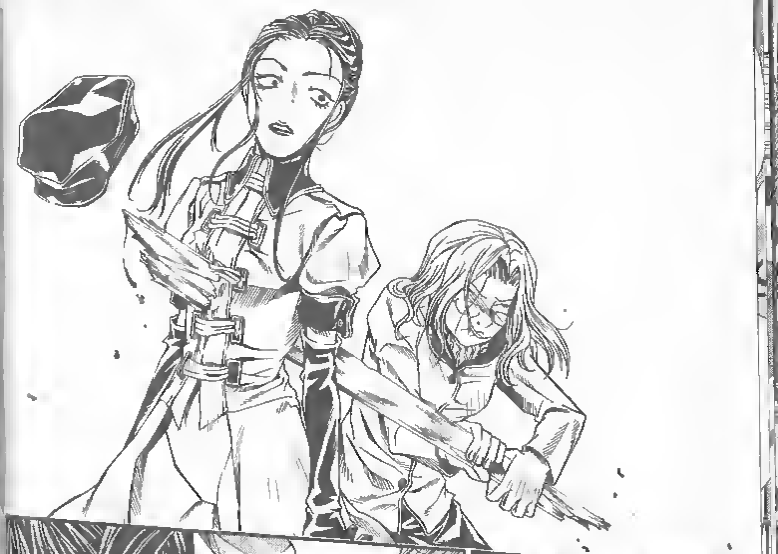
AS IF GOD WAS TELLING HIM NOT TO BE BORN.
THAT'S CRUELER THAN HAVING AN ACCIDENT I'D KNOW WHO TO BLAME FOR.
IT WASN'T AN ABORTION OR SOME ACCIDENT I GOT INTO IT WAS JUST A MISCARRIAGE
BUT NOW MY POOR BABY'S SOUL IS LOST, RIGHT BY MY SIDE.
DON'T YOU FIND IT CRUEL?
MY CHILD HAD THE RIGHT TO BE BORN AND TO BE HAPPY.


JUDGING BY YOUR FACES, I GUESS YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS.

ISN'T IT MY RESPONSIBILITY...
...TO CREATE THE BEST BODY FOR MY DEAR CHILD?

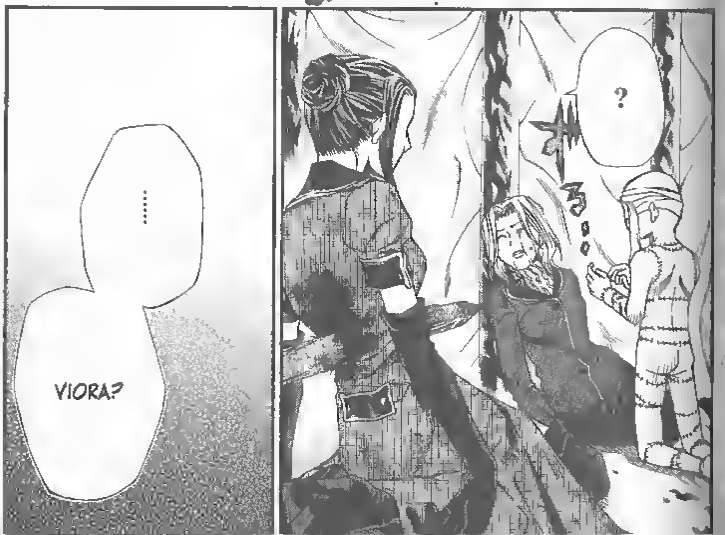

BUT PLEASE PROTECT YOUR MOTHER.
I KNOW AN INCOMPLETE BODY WILL BE HARD ON YOU.
VIORA, I'M SO SORRY, BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE.


ALZEID?!
S-STOP IT!!
THAT'S RIGHT, VIORA.
STRANGLE THAT BITCH!
AAHH...
GUH...
GACK...
OH...
OGH...



!!

EEEK!!
VIORA!!

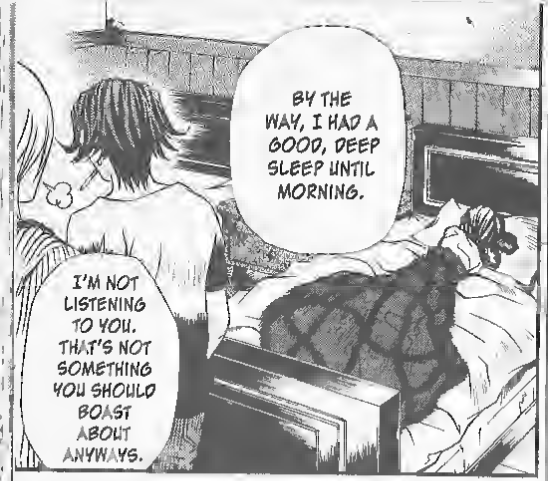

?
.....
VIORA?

AAAAAAH!
Stab!
Stab!
AH!
Stab!
AAAH!
AHHH!
Stab!
AAAAAAH!
GAH!
Stab!
Stab!
AGH..
Stab!
GWAAHH!
S-STOP... STOP!!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
GUHACK!
NOOOOO!!

BAROQUEHEAT?!
IF YOU CAN'T STAND TO SEE THIS, DON'T WATCH.
WH-?!
Bang!
Bang!
Bang!
Bang!
Bang!
STOP IT, ALZEID!
STOP IT!
HEY! HEY, PLEASE!
NOTHING HAS HAPPENED HERE.
CLOSE YOUR EYES...
COVER YOUR EARS...
ALZEID?!
Chak!

WHAT NONSENSE ARE YOU SAYING NOW?!
WHAT'S A LIFE?! HOW DO WE DISTINGUISH BETWEEN A REAL LIFE AND A FAKE LIFE?!
THAT CRAZY PATCHWORK CREATURE DOESN'T HAVE ANY KIND OF LIFE!
AFTER HE WAS DENIED THE CHANCE AT A TRUE EXISTENCE...
ELIMINATING WHAT EXISTENCE HE DOES HAVE IS JUST TOO CRUEL!
EVEN IF THAT'S TRUE, HE ALREADY WAS CREATED!
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING! I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER!
BUT I DON'T WANT THIS!
NOT THIS!!
AM I WRONG?!
AM I WRONG?! OR AM I RIGHT?! WHAT SHOULD I DO?! WHAT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO?!
...BECAUSE...

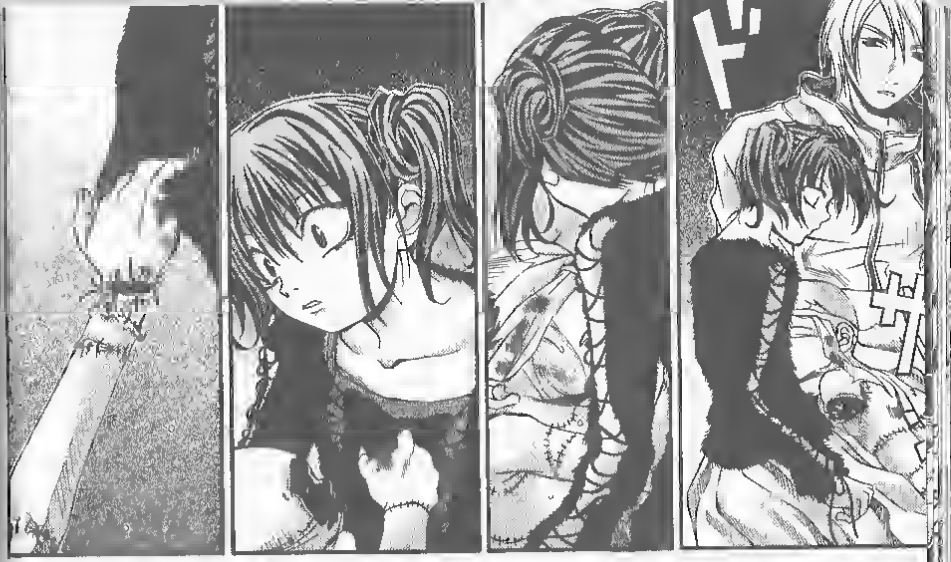
IT NEVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN CREATED AT ALL.
...THAT COULDN'T BECOME A HUMAN, A CREATURE, OR EVEN A DOLL WITHOUT FEELINGS?
POOR MODEL OF A SOUL...
HE SHOULDN'T...
...HAVE BEEN BORN?
RIGHT.
RAHZEL, THIS IS NOT YOUR FAULT.
SHUT UP! JERK!


BY THE WAY, I HAD A GOOD, DEEP SLEEP UNTIL MORNING.
I'M NOT LISTENING TO YOU. THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU SHOULD BOAST ABOUT ANYWAYS.

I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THIS MAY BE OUR WONDERFUL CHANCE!
WHILE SHE'S WEAK AND HELPLESS, WE CAN FORCE HER TO...
WHAT D'YOU THINK?!
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE SUCH A DIRTY MIND?
DON'T ASK ME STUFF LIKE THAT.

DON'T YOU WANNA SEE HER WITH AN EXPRESSION BESIDES THAT VACANT ONE?
I DON'T THINK SHE WANTS TO BE COMFORTED OR ANYTHING.
HER ANGRY FACE OR HER CRYING FACE?
HMPH.

IS SHE STILL DEPRESSED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED?



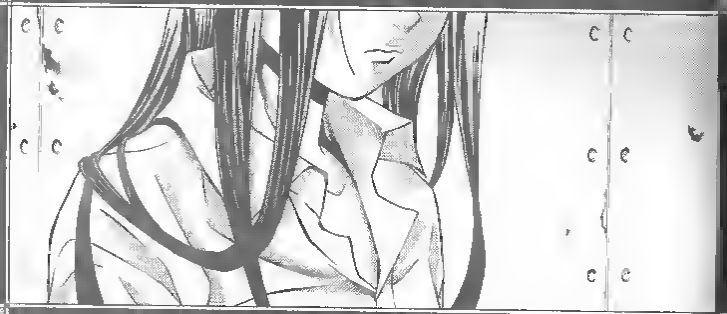
BECAUSE... TO ME...
IN MY EYES...
...HE WAS JUST A CRYING LITTLE BOY...

.....
GOING OUT?
"TO DO SOMETHING FUN."
THE THREE OF US...?
YEP.
"THE THREE OF US"?!
WE'RE GOING OUT TO DO SOMETHING FUN!
HURRY UP AND GET READY!
PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP, STUPID CHICK?
HEY!
My cigarettes!
God! So annoying!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT?!

"SO, YOU'VE NEVER SEEN THE SKY?"

"IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME, BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE."

"IT'S THE SAME COLOR AS YOUR EYES."



...I'M COMING.

BUT WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO FOR FUN?

DO YOU WANT TO FOLLOW MY USUAL PLANS?

PICKING UP CHICKS, DRINKING, AND GAMBLING ...?

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO HAVE FUN DOING THAT?

LET ME THINK. FOR EXAMPLE...

Chapter 31: After Flowers Bloom — Part 1: Reaching the Gloom

I ADMIT THAT I OFTEN HAVE A LITTLE DIFFICULTY JUDGING WHICH DIRECTION WE SHOULD GO...
JUST A LITTLE?! LIAR!
BUT I WON'T FORGET HOW MUCH I GOT BLAMED AND PUT DOWN UP TO NOW!
ALZEID WIPES A FINGER THROUGH THE DUST ON THE WINDOWSILL...
"WHAT'S WITH THIS DUST?!" SLAP!! (SOUND EFFECT.) "OUCH!!"
.. AND I STARE AT HIM, HOPING HE WILL ACCEPT IT.
SINCE WHEN DID I BECOME YOUR SISTER-IN-LAW OR SOMETHING?!

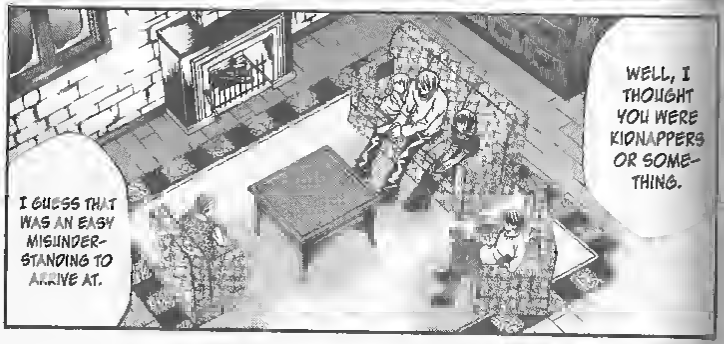
HEY, HEY! I UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE A LOT OF PENT-UP STRESS YOU WANT TO RELIEVE.
BUT WE'LL BE STUCK WITH NO GOOD PLACE TO CAMP IF WE DELAY ANY LONGER.
THEY SEEM TO BE HAVING FUN...
C'MON! IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF ALZEID!
YOU GUYS...

I DIDN'T MAKE ANY MISTAKE CHOOSING OUR PATH.
BUT EVEN THOUGH I'M FOLLOWING THE MAP, WE ENDED UP CIRCLING BACK TO THE SAME LOCATION.
ISN'T THAT CALLED BEING LOST?!
rustle
.....!

THERE'S NOTHING I WANT TO SAY.
IT'S JUST THAT...
...WE'RE LOST.
WE'RE LOST.
WHO HAS THE MAP?
ME.

READERS! YOU HEAR THAT?! ALZEID'S GOT THE MAP!
Yahoo!
SHUT UP!! WE'RE ALL LOST TOGETHER!!
ALZEID GOT LOST!
THAT'S RIGHT! WE'RE ALL LOST TOGETHER BECAUSE OF YOU, LITTLE BOY AL.

I'M SORRY...
...IF I SCARED YOU EARLIER.


WELL, I THOUGHT YOU WERE KIDNAPPERS OR SOMETHING.
I GUESS THAT WAS AN EASY MISUNDERSTANDING TO ARRIVE AT.

HOW CAN YOU TELL A LIE LIKE THAT TO SOMEONE WE JUST MET?!
AND RAHZEL! DON'T TAKE HIM SERIOUSLY!
REALLY?!
I'M SO SORRY...
DON'T WORRY.
ALZEID HAS A LOLITA COMPLEX, SO HE MUST BE GETTING EXCITED RIGHT NOW.

HEY, LUDWIKA. HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO HOLD ON TO HIM?
LEAVE THE NICE MAN ALONE.

EH...?
LUDWIKA !!

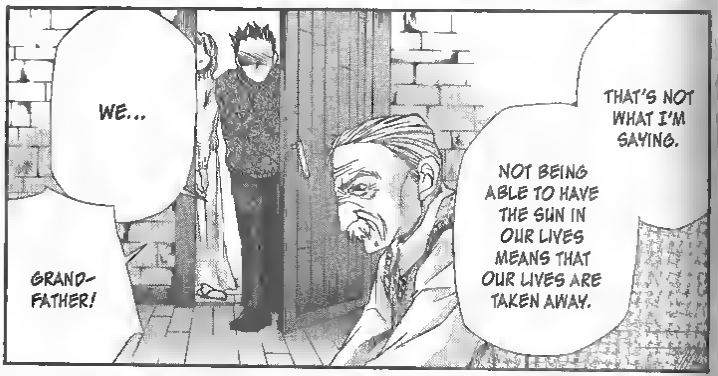
THEY'RE THE SAME AS MINE!
THE SAME COLOR!

A KID ?
In a place like this?
RED EYES AND WHITE HAIR...
THEY'RE THE SAME!
AMAZING...?

YOU ESCAPED AGAIN?! WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO LEARN YOUR LESSON?!

HEY, YOU.
HAND OVER THE GIRL.

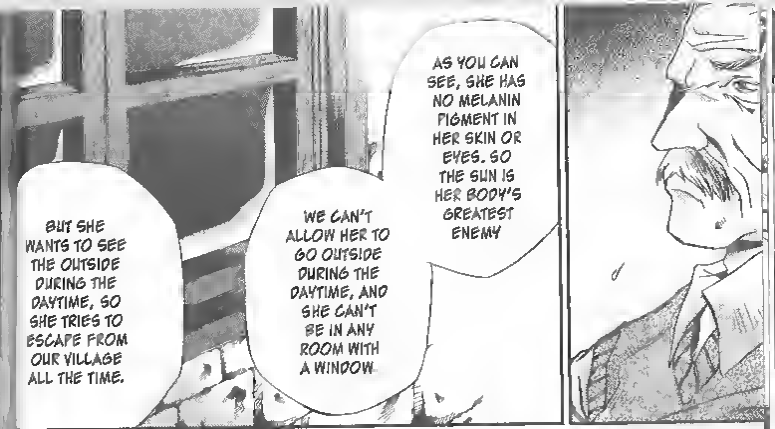
THERE'S NOTHING THAT MAKES HER INFERIOR TO OTHER PEOPLE.
SHE HAS THE INTELLIGENCE AND MOTOR SKILLS OF ANY OTHER CHILD HER AGE.
BESIDES HER POOR VISION AND HER EXTREME SENSITIVITY TO U.V. RAYS, SHE SEEMS NORMAL.


WE...
GRAND-FATHER!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING.
NOT BEING ABLE TO HAVE THE SUN IN OUR LIVES MEANS THAT OUR LIVES ARE TAKEN AWAY.

COME HERE, LUDWIKA.

...WELL, YOU BETTER GO TO BED BEFORE IT GETS TOO LATE, OKAY?

WELL... PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
I'LL SEND SOMEONE BY LATER TO TAKE YOU TO THE GUEST ROOMS.
PLEASE, MAKE YOUR-SELVES AT HOME.

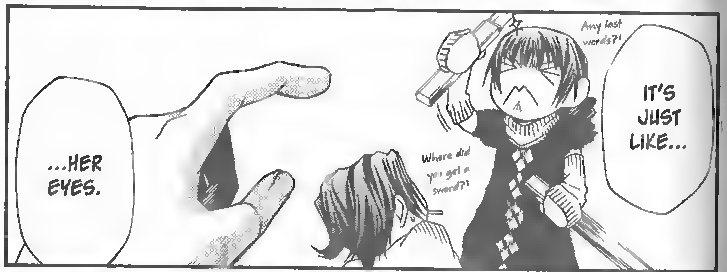

BUT SHE WANTS TO SEE THE OUTSIDE DURING THE DAYTIME, SO SHE TRIES TO ESCAPE FROM OUR VILLAGE ALL THE TIME.
WE CAN'T ALLOW HER TO GO OUTSIDE DURING THE DAYTIME, AND SHE CAN'T BE IN ANY ROOM WITH A WINDOW.
AS YOU CAN SEE, SHE HAS NO MELANIN PIGMENT IN HER SKIN OR EYES. SO THE SUN IS HER BODY'S GREATEST ENEMY

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY ABOUT MY TRAVELING UNDER THE SUN?
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT I'M JUST LIKE HER?
Why are you so angry right now?

MR. ALZEID. I SEE THAT YOUR EYES AND SKIN ARE JUST LIKE HERS.
AND YOU'RE TRAVELING OUTSIDE WITH NO PROBLEM, RIGHT?
SO?

IF SHE WANTS TO GO OUTSIDE DURING THE DAYTIME THAT MUCH...
...WHY CAN'T SHE JUST PUT ON SUNSCREEN AND WEAR SUNGLASSES?

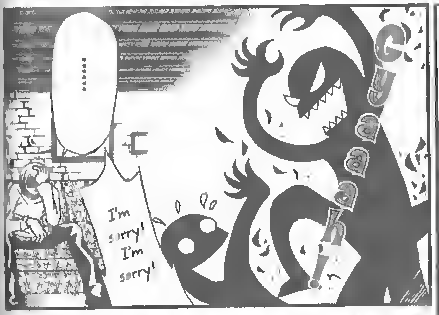
OH YEAH...
BLUE...
WHAT'S THE BEST WAY FOR ME TO DESCRIBE IT?
WHAT'S THE SKY IN THE DAYTIME LIKE?


...HER EYES.
Any last words?!
Where did you get a sword?!
IT'S JUST LIKE...

...AND ASK HER TO SHOW YOU HER EYES. SHE WON'T BITE... PROBABLY.
IF YOU CAN'T SEE THEM WELL... APPROACH HER SLOWLY...
.....

SHE'S TOO SMALL TO SEE, RIGHT?
SOMETIMES I CAN'T SEE WHERE YOU ARE.
すらり
DO YOU TWO WANT YOUR HEADS CUT OFF?

ALZEID, WHAT YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT THE POOR VISION AND STUFF...DO YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH PROBLEMS LIKE THAT?
YEAH.


.....
I'm sorry! I'm sorry!

I... THOUGHT A PALE PERSON LIKE ME COULD NEVER GO OUTSIDE DURING THE DAYTIME.
THOSE IDIOTS...

BUT SERIOUSLY...
...I CAN ROBABLY MAKE THIS PART BIGGER.
By sucking and massaging
ぺたり。

AL!
MR. ALZEID!
IS THE SKY ALWAYS BLUE LIKE HER EYES DURING THE DAYTIME?!
WOW!
YEAH. MOST OF THE TIME.
IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL!

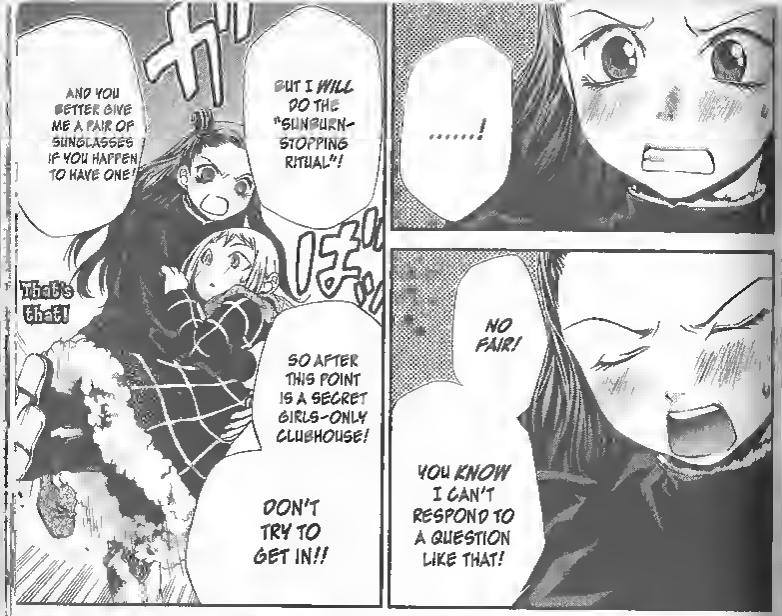
OUCH!
STUPID EXPRESSION...

WHAT'S WRONG?
I WAS TALKING TO BAROQUEHEAT EARLIER.
...AND WE'VE DECIDED TO LEAVE THIS VILLAGE WHILE THEY'RE SLEEPING
...RAHZEL?
WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE FOR SOME FOOD?
?
EH? BUT... WELL...
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THEIR EYES ARE ALL OVER US.
THEY SEEM NICE, BUT IT'S LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING EVIL BEHIND IT.
I JUST HAVE A BAD FEELING.
AND THIS VILLAGE WASN'T ON THE MAP.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S STRANGE?
IT'S BECAUSE... WELL... AREN'T YOU GETTING BAD VIBES FROM THIS PLACE?
I THOUGHT YOU DON'T LIKE DOING THINGS LIKE THAT.
WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING?
YEAH.
IT IS BEAUTIFUL.
THANKS.
ALL I'VE GOT RIGHT NOW IS OUR TRAIL RATIONS, BUT DO YOU WANT TO EAT?
HERE.

NO!
I SAID IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE!
ARE YOU BEING SARCASTIC?
IT'S NOT INCONVENIENT OR ANYTHING THAT I HAVEN'T SEE IT.
EVEN THOUGH MY EYES AND THEY SKY ARE BOTH BLUE, IT'S NOT REALLY THE SAME BLUE.
I WAS TEMPTED TO TELL HER THAT.
I THOUGHT ABOUT TAKING HER WITH US BEFORE ANYONE FROM THIS VILLAGE NOTICES.
WHY IS SHE PUTING SO MUCH EMPHASIS ON HER BAD FEELING?
IT IS STRANGE
I WANTED TO SHOW HER THE REAL SKY.
BUT...
BUT THAT'S NOT GOING TO SOLVE HER PROBLEMS.
DO YOU WANT TO GO SEE IT WITH ME?
W—
WHAT?! WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
I...
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO BE SUCH A ROMANTIC!
Pfft!
IT'S THE SAME COLO...
...AS YOUR EYES.
SO, YOU'VE NEVER SEEN THE SKY?
WHEN DID WE GET MARRIED?!
HEY, DON'T WORRY. LET'S ENJOY THIS MOMENT AS OUR HONEYMOON!
I'M NOT DONE TALKING YET!
HEEEY!!
IT'S STUPID.

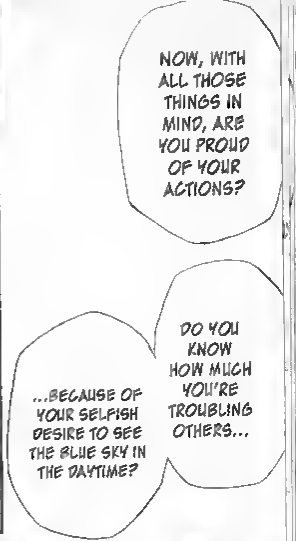
Chapter 32:
After Flowers Bloom--Part 2:
Missing Stars
ARE YOU SURE IT WAS OKAY NOT TO SAY GOODBYE TO LUDWIKA?
I'M SLEEPY...
I--IS THAT SO?
ALZEID! DON'T SLEEPWALK!
IT'S COLD...
MY FATHER WON'T LET ME SEE IT.
I KNOW.
SO...
...WE'D BETTER DO IT SECRETLY.
MY FOOTPRINTS SHOW UP ALL OVER THE PLACE RIGHT NOW!
Eeeeeeeee
BE CAREFUL YOU DON'T SLIP, RAHZEL
SNOW GRAFFITI?
Eeeeemph!!
SEE?
...THE WAY THE SNOW SHINES IN THE MOONLIGHT.
IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL.
THE NIGHTS ARE PRETTY BRIGHT RIGHT NOW, SO TRAVELING IS EASY.
YEAH.

TO AVOID THE DANGER OF GETTING SKIN CANCER, YOU CAN'T GO OUT IN THE SUNLIGHT.
AND THAT MAKES YOUR BONES AND TEETH WEAKER.
YOU HAVE POOR VISION TO START WITH, AND YOU DON'T HAVE THE PIGMENT THAT KEEPS UNNECESSARY LIGHT FROM GETTING INTO YOUR EYES, SO YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING WHEN IT'S TOO BRIGHT.
HEY, LUDWIKA ..
U- YEAH ...?
HEY, HEY, HEY!
LUDWIKA, DO YOU LIKE PLAY- ING IN THE SNOW?
I DIDN'T GO RUN- NING WITH YOU.
RIGHT, SAROGUE- HEAT?
OF COURSE.
DID YOU HAVE FUN?
YOU HAVE THIS CONDITION FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
UNDER- STAND?
...OR BY GETTING ACCLIMATED TO IT.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN FIX YOUR PROBLEM BY HAVING SURGERY...
UMM ...
WELL ...
UM...
Super scary look.
He's just sleepy.
OH...
WHY DID YOU FOLLOW US?
DO YOU ALSO UNDER- STAND THAT?
HOWEVER, THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU ARE OVERLY SENSITIVE TOWARD YOUR CONDITION.
IT'S EVEN A LIGHT HANDICAP, COMPARED TO MANY OTHER AILMENTS.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T HAVE A NORMAL LIFE.
...YES.
AL! YOU MADE HER CRY!
UUH... WAAHH!
BUT I...
I'M SO... SORRY!
ERR..


AND YOU BETTER GIVE ME A PAIR OF SUNGLASSES IF YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE ONE!
BUT I WILL DO THE "SUNBURN-STOPPING RITUAL"!
That's that!
SO AFTER THIS POINT IS A SECRET GIRLS-ONLY CLUBHOUSE!
DON'T TRY TO GET IN!!
.....!
NO FAIR!
YOU KNOW I CAN'T RESPOND TO A QUESTION LIKE THAT!

DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH ME.
OH MY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT ARE YOU HIDING FROM ME?
SHE'S NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON TO IGNORE ETIQUETTE JUST BECAUSE SHE HAS A BAD FEELING.
WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT WITH RAHZEL?
BAROQUE-HEAT?
HUH?
WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE BETRAYING...
...EVERYONE WHO LOVES YOU AND TRIES TO PROTECT YOU...
...BY BEING HERE RIGHT NOW?


NOW, WITH ALL THOSE THINGS IN MIND, ARE YOU PROUD OF YOUR ACTIONS?
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOU'RE TROUBLING OTHERS...
...BECAUSE OF YOUR SELFISH DESIRE TO SEE THE BLUE SKY IN THE DAYTIME?

...YES.

DOESN'T SHE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE FOR HERSELF WHAT TO DO?
HOW IS TELLING HER SOME-THING LIKE THAT...
...A RESPONSIBLE WAY TO HANDLE THIS?!
BUT--!
THEN WHEN YOU'RE READY, GO HOME.
?
YES!

I KNOW IT'S COLD. I'M SORRY, BUT PLEASE BE PATIENT, OKAY?
YES, SIR-RAY.
BLACK CLOTHES USUALLY PROTECT YOU FROM U.V. RAYS...
...BUT I WANT TO BE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS.
DO I HAVE TO PUT SUNSCREEN ON UNDER MY CLOTHES, TOO?
...MR. ALZEID SAID I WAS "NORMAL."
IT MADE ME SO HAPPY.
LIKE THIS...
WITH THESE EYES...
...AND WITH THIS HAIR...
BUT THIS... IS NOT NORMAL.
FOR ME TO GO OUTSIDE, IT'S SUCH A BIG DEAL.
HE HAS LONG LEGS.
HE WALKS VERY FAST, AND HE'S VERY TOUGH.
?
HE'S VERY TALL...
...YOU KNOW?
I'M ALWAYS CAUSING PROBLEMS FOR OTHER PEOPLE.
I KNOW. WE NEED AS MUCH FERTILIZER AS WE CAN GET.
THIS LATE IN THE SEASON, WE WERE FORTUNATE TO FIND THREE PEOPLE.
Eavesdropping
WHAT?!
THEY'LL DIE THAT WE MAY LIVE.
I GUESS THAT HE'S UNHAPPY THAT HE GOT LEFT OUT OF OUR CONVERSATION
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
SHE JUST HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR SOME VILLAGERS TALKING.
From what Rahzel's singing here, she probably came to ask them for food.
I'm so hungry and famished! Lets eat now!
Let's do this song in style!
AT THIS RATE, LUDWIKA ISN'T GOING TO BE ABLE TO WELCOME THE SPRING.
ALZEID!
SO WE DIDN'T MEAN TO LEAVE YOU OUT, YOU KNOW?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT.
WE JUST TRIED TO SPARE YOU THE TROUBLE.
WE THOUGHT IT WAS BETTER NOT TO TELL YOU ABOUT THIS SINCE YOU REALLY CARE ABOUT LUDWIKA.
SOME THINGS WE'RE BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING.
YUP. NO IDEA.
GYRAHH!
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
WHO KNOWS?

AS LONG AS I HAVE THOSE TWO WITH ME...
...MY DISADVANTAGE BECOMES AN ADVANTAGE.
I HAVE TO RUN TO KEEP UP WITH HIM...
HE HAS NO REGARD FOR HOW FAST I WALK, EVEN THOUGH HE TELLS ME NOT TO PUSH MYSELF TOO MUCH.
...SINCE HE WON'T SLOW DOWN FOR ME.
SO I'M VERY EXHAUSTED AT THE END OF THE DAY.
By the way, which sunglasses do you want?
Oh my god! These look hideous on you
...BUT HE NEVER TRIES TO ADJUST HIS PACE FOR ME.
HE MAY WAIT FOR ME TO GET UP...
I SOMETIMES FALL DOWN, EVEN THOUGH I STILL WANT TO KEEP UP WITH THEM.
I DON'T WANT TO ACT SPOILED, BUT MY BODY IS HONEST.
WILL I HAVE SOMEONE WHO WILL TREAT ME ...
...AS A NORMAL PERSON SOMEDAY?
DO YOU THINK I CAN BE "NORMAL"?
OF COURSE!
CAN I TRUST HER WORDS? WILL I HAVE SOMEONE ...
LATELY, I STOPPED FAINTING FROM EXHAUSTION.
I HAVE MORE ENERGY NOW.
REALLY?
WELCOME BACK!
YOU TOOK SO LONG!
...EVEN THOUGH I HAVE EYES AND HAIR LIKE THIS...
.. SINCE YOU HAVE TO WORK HARD TO OBTAIN SOMETHING THAT OTHERS ALREADY HAVE
YOU MAY HAVE TO PUT MORE EFFORT INTO IT THAN OTHER PEOPLE.
...WHO IS NOT SIMPLY KIND TO ME.
BUT HE PUSHES ME TO BE "NORMAL."
AND HE ALWAYS HELPS ME WHEN I CAN'T HELP MYSELF.
RIGHT FROM THE START I HAVE SO MANY DISADVANTAGES.
OH MY GOD... YOU'RE NOT THE SAME.
RAHZEL, YOU'RE A GIRL!

JUST BE QUIET FOR A SECOND.
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME!
AL... WELL... I...!
HEY.
AH! MR. ALZEID!
JUST SHUT UP AND WALK.
AND LOOK AT THE SUNRISE.
I DON'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING...
...BUT I WILL LOVE YOU NO MATTER WHAT, RAHZEL.
Masculine god
IT'LL BE FINE!! WITHIN A FEW YEARS...
...I PLAN TO ACHIEVE A MASCULINE BODY WITH THREE-METER HEIGHT!!
YOU'RE BASICALLY SAYING THAT THEY KNOW WHERE WE ARE BECAUSE YOU WERE MAKING LOUD NOISES EARLIER, RIGHT?
...I'M SORRY...
?
WELL...
SHOULD WE PART COMPANY NOW?
WE NEED SOMEONE TO ACT AS BAIT.
THE VILLAGERS PROBABLY KNOW BY NOW THAT WE AND LUDWIKA AREN'T THERE.

AND ONE DAY, THERE CAME A MEDDLESOME WOMAN WHO TOLD HIM ..
...THAT SHE WOULD TAKE HIM OUTSIDE.
THERE ONCE WAS A CHILD WHO DIDN'T KNOW THE COLOR OF THE SKY OR ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT THE WORLD OUTSIDE OF WHERE HE EXISTED
I'M JUST HAVING SO MANY FIRST-TIME EXPERIENCES HERE!
...AND I NEVER KNEW IT'S SO BRIGHT IT MAKES MY EYES HURT A LITTLE
I NEVER FELT THE WARMTH OF THE SUN...
. YEAH.
I KNOW.
IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I EXPECTED!
SHE WAS JUST A STUPID WOMAN.
SHE HAD NO NAME.
SINCE YOU'RE THE ONLY WOMAN HERE, I'LL JUST CALL YOU "WOMAN."
NAMES ARE SIMPLY SEMIOTIC DEVICES FOR DISTINGUISHING INDIVIDUALS, RIGHT?
I DON'T NEED TO ASK YOUR NAME

W--
WOWWW!
UH-HUH.
JUST CALM DOWN, OKAY?
Eeeeee
OH MY GOD! OH MY GOD! OH MY GODDD!
ee!
OH... OHHH WWW GOD. HESS!!
IT'S ORANGE AND SPARKLING!
I SEE I'M GLAD.
IT'LL TURN THE COLOR YOU WANT TO SEE SOON.
I UNDERSTAND. JUST CALM DOWN.
IT'S SO SPARKLY AND SHINY!
BUT THIS COLOR IS SO BEAUTIFUL, TOO!
NO, IT WILL. IT DEPENDS ON THE TIME OF DAY.
BUT IT'S DIFFERENT FROM RAHZEL'S EYE COLOR.
THE SKY'S NOT GOING TO BE BLUE TODAY?

BUT THE COLOR OF THE SKY THAT I SAW THE FIRST TIME WAS...
EEEEEK!!

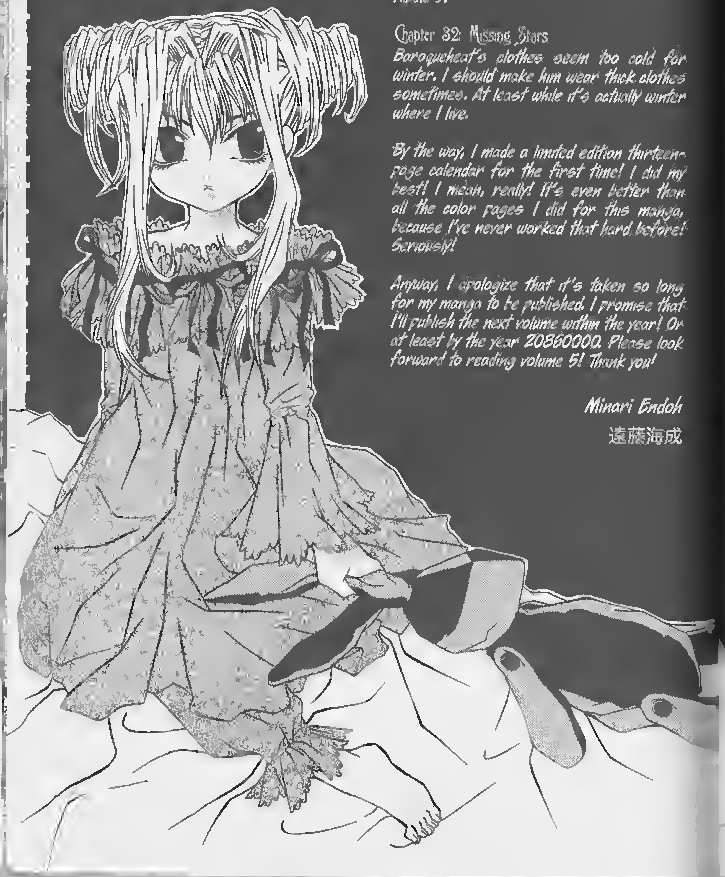
RAHZEL?!
Dazzle Volume 4 END

IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME, BECAUSE I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE.
SO, YOU'VE NEVER SEEN THE SKY?

IT'S THE SAME COLOR AS YOUR EYES.

...LIKE A FREEZING WINTER SKY.
..DEEP BLUE..
THEY WERE A DEEP...

SHE KILLED MY FATHER AND DISAPPEARED.



Chapter 30: Virtual Cradle
In this episode, I wanted to draw Alzeid in a clown costume. But my dream didn't come true. I wanted to give him a big, red, round nose. Damn.

Chapter 31: Reaching the Gloom
Many fans are asking me who's using the Ahhhy cup. I will bet everything that it's Alzeid's!

Chapter 32: Missing Stars
Baroqueheat's clothes seem too cold for winter. I should make him wear thick clothes sometimes. At least while it's actually winter where I live.

By the way, I made a limited edition thirteen-page calendar for the first time! I did my best! I mean, really! It's even better than all the color pages I did for this manga, because I've never worked that hard before! Seriously!

Anyway, I apologize that it's taken so long for my manga to be published. I promise that I'll publish the next volume within the year! Or at least by the year 20860000. Please look forward to reading volume 5! Thank you!

Minari Endoh
遠藤海成

Chapter 25: Dear Noel, Dearest Ray
Penguins. They're so cute--although they smell like fish and are muscular and pretty aggressive. Sigh. But they are soooooo cute!! (I'm getting weird?)

Chapter 26: Perfect Rhapsody
Just like Alzeid and Baroqueheat in this story, I know one person who drinks a lot. Her family can't drink at all, except her grandfather and her. But he has already passed away from drinking too much alcohol. Therefore, she can't drink anymore!

Chapter 27: Scar After Scar
Starting with this story, I changed publishers. I'm sorry for making a lot of people worry about me and also for causing problems for many. I hope you understand my decision. It was not anyone's fault, and no one forced me to do it. I chose this path all by myself. I hope you are all happy with my decision. Anyway, this story is kind of like a preview story since it's the first chapter for the new publisher. This is kind of rare, like chapters 11 and 16. These stories are all peaceful stories that no one dies in.

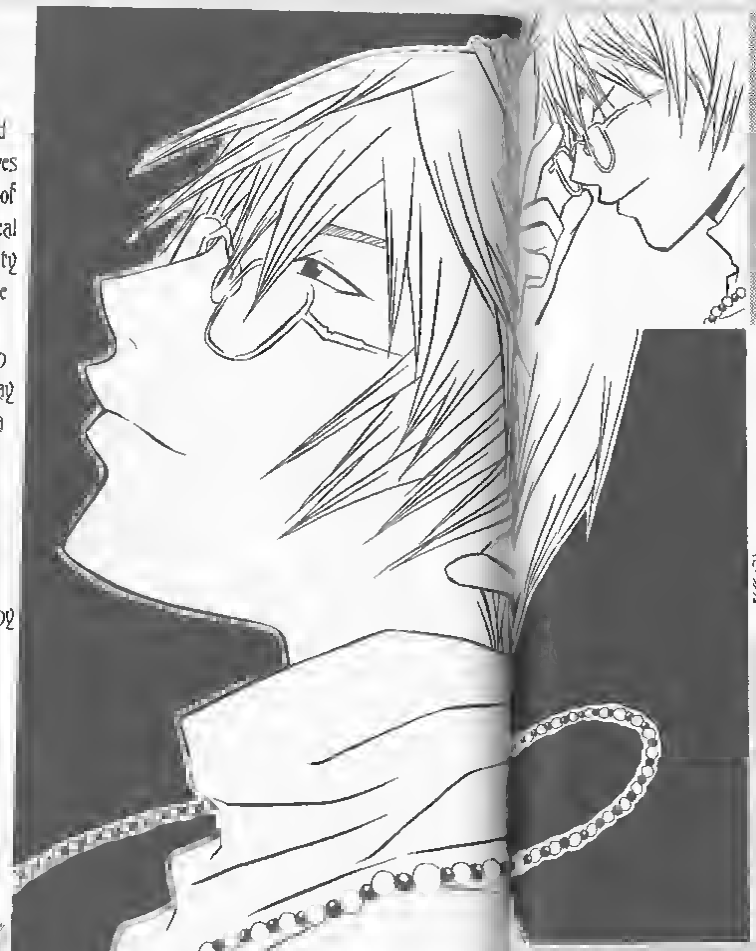
By the way, just a few weeks ago, I was invited to a dinner to celebrate the publication of my former assistant's new manga. She used to work for me as my assistant and moved on to a new publisher to publish her own work. Now she's just my enemy. Hey, Michelle (her nickname), you're the only person who can get lost on the way to a restaurant you yourself made reservations for. You're the only person who expects to get lost and so leaves the house early just to make sure you'll get there on time. Anyway, I'm looking forward to getting your autograph next!

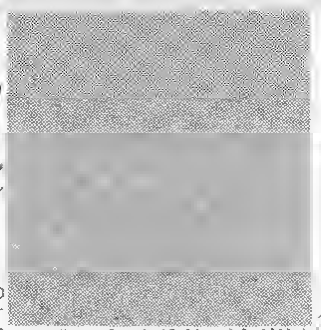
Chapter 28: Drab Circus
Starting with this story, I got a new assistant. She's married--she's someone's wife! That sounds so beautiful! We have a cruel tradition of giving new assistants nicknames. So her name is Cheepay now. It sounds Chinese. Well, I'm sorry, Cheepay. You're someone's wife. But I think it's better than Bob-ko (one of the assistants' nicknames). Well, I guess they're similar. (Laughs.)

Chapter 29: Opening Bell
While we work, we sometimes have fun by drawing characters from old anime, commercials, and games without any reference. We compete by drawing the most perfect figure. But we end up drawing monsters since none of us have a good memory. I get so serious though--I hate losing! (I need to grow up.) While we were working on this story, we had a battle that one of the assistants requested for her birthday. Recently I got rejected by all of my assistants since I didn't know the rabbit character from the one commercial for an English conversation school. I felt so left out. Because I have no time to watch TV! Do you get it?

Things really get weird when Rizeid, Rahzel and Baroqueheat find themselves smack-dab in the middle of the albino forest, a magical place filled with bloodthirsty plants. Will the trio make it past the treacherous shrubbery with their green thumbs intact? Later, a day at the beach turns into a rescue operation as they stop a young man from killing himself. He invites them to join him on his journey to a mysterious town...a town that has many dark, dangerous secrets...

The journey continues in Volume 5 of Dazzle!





(height) 178
(weight) 62
(eyecolor) emerald
(eyesight) 20/20
(birthday) June.11
(haircolor) golden-brown

(likes) beer meat tea

(dis/likes) shemale amphibian

Jel ice